



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

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST (Est 1841) Maitland
SACRED HEART, New England Hwy,
CAMPBELL'S HILL
HOLY FAMILY, 11 John St, LARGS
ST COLUMBA'S, Cnr Prince & Church
Sts, PATERSON

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Est 1871)
Cnr George & James Sts, MORPETH

ST PATRICK'S (Est 1905)
55 New England Hwy, LOCHINVAR

OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Est 1947)
Cnr Anderson Dr & Delprat Ave,
BERESFIELD

ST PAUL'S (Est 1961)
10 Young St, RUTHERFORD

We are in the country of the Worimi, Gamilleroi, Wonnarua, 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 Michael Kelly SJ
(Presbytery 4934 5783)

Support Clergy

Fr Maurie Cahill, Fr Lex Levey,

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

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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 MONDAYS

Ph: 4933 8918 / Fax: 4934 1227
E:chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au

CC MAR/APR 2020

INSIDE YOU WILL FIND

FR PAUL'S HOMILY

RESOURCES TO PRAY AT HOME

WELCOME FR MICHAEL KELLY

SOI/COLLECTIONS/APRIL SAINTS

HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH cont

PARISH NEWS/ACTiv8

SPONSORS

SPECIAL BULLETIN FOR THE

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A, 29th March 2020

All Masses are suspended until further notice

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 *I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R.)

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11 *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord: whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 11:3-7.17.20-7.33-45 *I am the resurrection and the life*

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you

love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Homily - 5th Sunday of Lent.....by Fr Paul

My dear sisters and brothers,

In the midst of the Corona Virus Pandemic we turn to the word of God for comfort and healing. This Sunday's Gospel contains the story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. Jesus says to his sisters Martha and Mary "I am the Resurrection and the Life, do you believe this?" We believe our God gives us the gift of life and not even death can take away that gift.

This present health crisis is confronting the human family with how much we do value the gift of life. The efforts of our Government to protect our population from the spread of the virus calls us all to reflect on how we can care for one another.

We know that our parish communities are deeply saddened that for the time being we cannot gather to celebrate the Mass in our parish churches. Weddings can now only be held with the celebrant, the couple and two witnesses and in most of our parishes couples are choosing to postpone their wedding till after this crisis passes. Funerals can only be held with up to 10 people and we are required to respect the social distancing at those gatherings. This is a very painful time for families who experience the death of a loved one.

So let's continue to carry each other in prayer. Each week our parish office will send out a copy of our Sunday readings, a homily and prayers. I encourage you to reflect on the word of God and to pray in your homes.

We are very gifted in the 21st century by our technology that enables us to stay in touch with each other through phones and computers. It is important that we continue to bring life to each other through conversations on the phone and through emails and other social means of communication.

May these days of crisis lead us to a renewed trust in our God, a renewed seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in how best to care for each other and a renewed trust that God gives us the gift of life here on earth and for ever in heaven.

With love,
Fr Paul



We pray for

All Recently Deceased

Ella Mary Brennan, Pauline Jean Esplund, Henry William James Harding, Malcolm McNab

Anniversaries

Claude Burgess, Rita Cotter, Sr Lucy Doran, Sr Hazel Gilbert, Sr Clotilde Gollan, Molly Harris, Pauline Homery, Waclaw Kuszelyk, Barry John Lantry, Cliff Lill, Ellen McNamara, Sr Augustine Moylan, Tony Royan

Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.

the Sick

Charlotte Ayers, Jeanette Bailey, Rosario Bugna, Monique Bull, Stephen Carrall, Sr Catherine Mary Carroll rsj, Margaret Cook, Marion & Luke Crotty, Sharon S. Cuevas, Samuel Edmonds, Bridgid Field, Anthony Fitzpatrick, Michael Flores, Pam French, Amanda Gordon, Col Green, Julie Gurr, Sarah Hamilton, Anne Hardy, Peter Hardy, Ken Hartup, John Hickey, Lachlan Hill, Grace Holzhauser, Paul Hurney, Cathy Ann Hutchen, Mavis Jarrett (Parkes), Kevin Johns, Paul Johns, Ken Jones, Terry Kauter, Krystyna Kulczynski, Brian Lang OAM, Bernard Larcombe, Richard Lee, Eileen Leonard, Michael Lockyer, Stephen Lucas, Shane McCarthy, Marie McGrath, Annette Mitchell, Poasa Nili, Aidan O'Neill, Dominic Punch, Pauline Randall, John Sheridan, Margaret Sipple, Steven Small, Anne Standing, Margaret Sullivan, Thomas Sullivan, Jan (John) Szczudluk, Ron Taylor, Bill Temperley, Robert Threlfo, Mo Toleafoa, Jo Winkler

Rite of Christian Initiation Adults (RCIA) Catechumens & Candidates

Brooke Boughton, Christine Brown, Katrina Easton, Tomara Brown, Richelle Lloyd, Meg Martin, Troy McWha, Nicole Murphy, Belinda Pearson, Ron Perkins, Elliott Plank, Drew Reid, Nigel Richardson

5th Sunday of Lent.....Universal Prayers

Celebrant: We have heard through the Readings the proclamation of Jesus that, He is the Resurrection and the Life. We have professed, our own belief in the resurrection of the body. So, let us pray as people who live in the hope of the Resurrection.

Prayer Leader:

We pray that for Pope Francis and our Bishops and Priests: that they be strengthened by the Spirit of Jesus to spread the message of the good news of Jesus.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**
We pray that the men of our Diocese heed the call to the priesthood and be filled with the light of Christ and answer the call to be the shepherd to spread the Holy word among all people.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for the people of our world that they have faith, strength and courage to face the problems we face in our everyday life, the recent drought and fires and now, the virus that is spreading in each country of the world.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten those working on a solution to control the Coronavirus, that is threatening the health of all the people. Give them the knowledge to obtain a cure and make all well again.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

In these final weeks of Lent we pray that all people take up the cross with Jesus and continue their self-sacrifice and be compassionate to those in need.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for all the Elect and the Candidates preparing to receive the Sacraments of our Catholic faith. May the Holy Spirit dwell in their hearts as they continue on their journey, and always make the Eucharist the source and summit of their faith in Christ.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

For the children in the Sacrament programme that through their parents and guardians they become to know the true love Jesus and invite Him into their hearts.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

Loving Jesus, we pray for those who are not well, calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love in their troubled time.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they know the Risen Lord of Life, face to face.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

Celebrant: Father, we thank you for the great hope you give us in Christ, your risen Son. We make our prayers in his name - through Jesus, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

For Your Information

**The Chisholm Regional Office
will be closed to the public until further notice!
You can still email and phone.**

**So, if you wish an anniversary/notice to be
placed in the bulletin OR you wish to be added
to our distribution list, please advise before
10am WEDNESDAY.**

**We apologise for any inconvenience.
May God bless and protect you.**

PHONE: 4933 8918 / EMAIL: chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au

When this ends, AND IT WILL,
every game will sell out,
every restaurant will have a 2-hour wait,
every kid will be glad to be in school,
everyone will love their job,
the stock market will skyrocket,
and every other house will get TP'd,
and we will all embrace and shake hands,
That's gonna be a pretty good day.
Hang in there, World.

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Fifth Sunday of Lent
29th March 2020

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA



Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.**

PRAY AT HOME

The Bishops Conference is supporting the prayer life of Catholics who are unable to attend Mass. Dioceses and other Catholic organisations are also providing material and access to livestreaming of Masses. Catholics are encouraged to utilise the resources below to support your prayer life and especially to allow you to continue to keep Sunday as a day when prayer is prominent. Many Catholic organisations have been supportive in their provision of access to material that is sometimes only available via subscription. The Conference thanks St Pauls Publications in particular for allowing the reproduction of its Scripture reflections.

<https://www.catholic.org.au/prayathome>

Liturgical and Scripture resources

[Liturgy of the Word and prayers for Fourth Sunday of Lent -- March 22, 2020](#)

[Daily Mass on Demand -- CathNews YouTube Channel](#)

[Daily Mass -- Archdiocese of Melbourne](#)

[Mass for You at Home \(Channel 10 -- aired 6am each Sunday\)](#)

[Live webcast of Sunday Mass -- St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane](#)

[Readings of the day -- Universalis.Com](#); [Prayers for Time of Pandemic](#)

[Prayer from Apostolic Nuncio in Australia, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana](#)

[Sign up to receive daily Gospel reflections -- Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn](#)

[Pray.Com.Au -- Madonna Magazine/Australian Jesuits](#)

Diocesan protocols / guidelines / news

[Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#); <http://mnnews.today/>

LiturgyHelp. Liturgical and Scripture resources

Personal and Family Prayer.

In this time of crisis, we are providing Catholics with access to a range of resources for personal and family prayer. In particular, we hope that Catholics in social isolation can gain a sense of prayerful solidarity with their local faith communities and the whole Body of Christ.

Feel free to print resources and give them to your friends, family and community, particularly those who do not have access to the internet.



DIocese OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

To access these free resources, go to:

liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess

or

liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray

Register as a new user
Complete your details (name & email address), confirm the user agreement, and click 'Register and Login'.

Registered already?
Just enter your email address and click 'Login'.



For help, ideas and updates, follow us:
[facebook.com/LiturgyHelp](https://www.facebook.com/LiturgyHelp)



Liturgy Help.
ONLINE LITURGY RESOURCE.

Welcome Fr Michael Kelly SJ

Michael Kelly was born in Sydney in 1953. I went to the parish primary school in North Sydney till I went to St Aloysius College where our bishop Bill Wright and I were classmates.

When Bill went to Springwood I went to the Jesuit Novitiate (1971) and Bill was ordained in, from memory 1978, well ahead of my ordination in 1984.

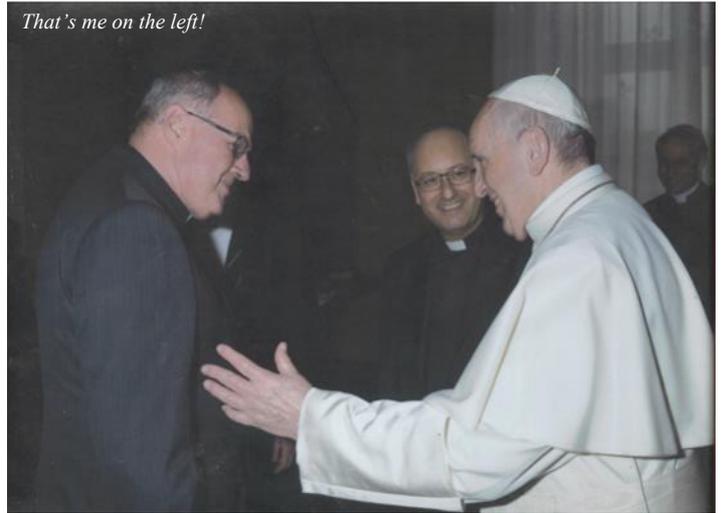
Since ordination, I have worked in media one way or another - writing, reporting, editing, publishing and marketing. For the last almost 12 years I've been based in Bangkok, mostly managing the Asia wide news and information service of the Church across Asia called UCAN- www.ucanews.com.

In the last five years, I've also developed two publications in partnership with European Catholic publishers: La Croix International at www.international.la-Croix.com which has quickly become the premier independent online Catholic daily in the world; and La Civiltà Cattolica at www.laciviltacattolica.com which is the most outstanding thing the Jesuits do in long form journalism in the world.

Almost by accident, I have stumbled into assisting with the resettlement of 500 families of persecuted Christians trapped in Bangkok. This is the most time and energy consuming thing I do because the need is urgent and immediate and often extreme. But we have some success with resettlement though it takes patience and perseverance.

I look forward to serving the people of the diocese and sharing what I've learnt along the way about God's saving goodness.

That's me on the left!



Sacraments of Initiation



IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROGRAM FOR 2020



We have been advised by our Bishop that for the safety of all our people the Sacramental program for this year is to be suspended. This means that we will not be continuing any part of the program until 2021. All resources will be the same so please keep these in a safe place.

We will communicate with families in Term 4, 2020 with information regarding the 2021 program

Extract from Bishop Bills Pastoral Letter 19/3/2020

"Parish Sacramental Preparation programs are to be cancelled for the duration of 2020. The celebrations of Confirmation and First Communion are cancelled for 2020; we shall observe a 'fallow year' with time to reflect on current practice and return to the sacramental journeys for our children in 2021 "

Please know that Fr Paul, Fr John, the sacramental team and all our parishioners have you and your children in our prayers.

If you have any concerns or questions please call 49338918 or email SOIchisholm@mn.catholic.org.au

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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 1st March 2020 (After Youth Mass)
 Sunday 5th April 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.**

Suspended until further notice

†**OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING THE CHILD PROTECTION, HEALING AND SUPPORT** agency of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland–Newcastle can be contacted 4979 1383.

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."

Chisholm Connection

Deadline & Distribution Dates 2020

ISSUE	EDITORIAL DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION DATE
APRIL	17th April	26th April 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>

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](#)

PLEASE NOTE any ANNIVERSARIES and NOTICES TO APPEAR IN BULLETINS will need to be received at the office by WEDNESDAY no later than 10am. 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.



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The Hunter's Premium Over 55's Lifestyle Village
 Providing Affordable Luxury in Retirement

**It's Not just the Future You've Dreamed of...
 The Future You've Earned!**

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 Phone: 4932 1901 Email: sales@walkagrangec.com.au

Message from Fr Paul regarding First & Second Collections

Dear Parishioners

I am very aware that the corona virus health crisis will have financial repercussions for many people, many are losing their jobs and needing to seek government support. In this climate I feel reluctant to talk to parishioners about financial matters. However, here are some of my reflections on the present financial situation for our parishes.

Thank you to those who have made donations to our parishes since our Masses were discontinued last weekend. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

We are getting a number of enquires at the parish office about how our parishioners may continue to support our parishes financially during this health crisis. As you know each Sunday at Mass we have two collections the first collection goes to the Maitland Clergy central fund which supports the priests of our diocese and the second collection covers the running expenses of each of our parishes.

As we are not holding public Masses I am still thinking about how best to respond to parishioners who want to make donations to either the first and second collections. At present a number of our parishioners contribute to the second collection through direct debit so I am still in discussions with Louise our Parish manager on how we might offer ways to our parishioners to continue to support the parishes financially. So when we have some further ideas about this we will let you know.

In the meantime, if you have any suggestions please call or email the parish office and let Louise know.

Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers

Thank you for all that you do to support our parish life

With love Fr Paul

“Lockdown” - a beautiful and positive verse from Fr Richard Hendrick, OFM

Yes, there is fear.
Yes, there is isolation.
Yes, there is panic buying.
Yes, there is sickness.
Yes, there is even death.

But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the
housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and
reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their
neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new
reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So, we pray and we remember that
Yes, there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes, there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes, there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes, there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes, there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live
now
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

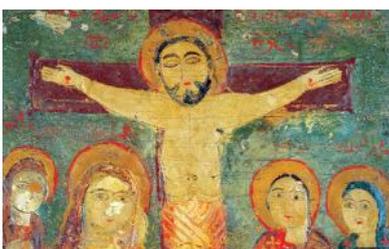
Resurrection of the Lord - Happy Easter!

This year due to the Corona Virus, all public celebrations of Holy Week will not be held. This is a sadness for our Catholic communities, however we have these reflections on the liturgies that are normally held in Holy Week. We also hope by then all these liturgies will be live-streamed from the Cathedral. God Bless.



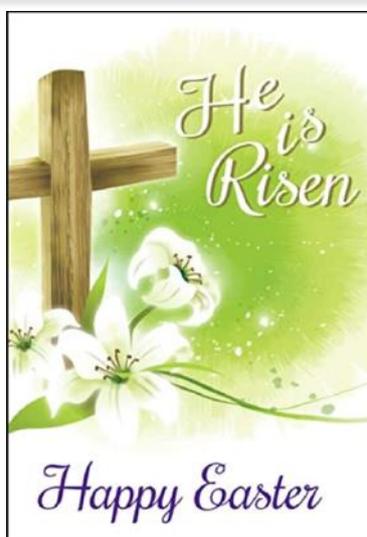
CHRISM MASS This is concelebrated by the bishop, priests, deacons and people of the diocese. It is at this Mass when the oils that will be used throughout the coming year will be blessed and consecrated. At this Mass representatives of our Region will be present to receive these oils and bring them back to their respective communities. This Mass shows the unity that exists between the bishop and all the people of God entrusted to his care.

THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (HOLY THURSDAY) This Mass commemorates the night of Jesus arrest. During this Mass we celebrate the wonderful gift that Jesus gave to the Church at the Last Supper; the Eucharist. This is commemorated not only by the celebration of the Mass but also by the washing of the feet. The Eucharist we receive is Jesus Himself nourishing us to be able to go and to be of service to others. We receive Him to be strengthened to be His presence in the world today. After Mass the Blessed Eucharist is processed through the Church and is reposed on an altar so that we can keep watch with our Lord in His agony. Will you stay and watch one hour with Him after this beautiful Mass?



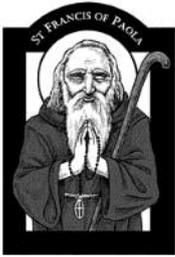
FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY) Today the Church is empty, it is stripped. We acknowledge that Jesus is going through His passion. The Sacraments are not celebrated today as we are in mourning. We wait as Jesus hangs upon the Cross. We venerate the wood of that Cross, and we pause as our Saviour dies for our Redemption. By ancient tradition we receive communion from those Hosts which were consecrated on Holy Thursday night.

HOLY SATURDAY We are in mourning for Jesus who is in the Tomb. We await with joyful hope the experience of His Resurrection. At the Vigil, this "Vigil of all Vigils" we mark with Joy the wondrous gift to us that is our Redemption. We celebrate with exuberant joy and wonder this event in history. We hear from the Bible God promising His people their redemption and we hear from the Gospel the account of the finding of the Empty Tomb! The fire is Blessed and the Paschal Candle is lit, the water of Baptism is blessed and those who are to be received into full Communion with us are brought into the Church of God. We renew our Baptismal promises, and begin again the new life of the risen Lord.



*May the Resurrection of our Saviour
be a constant reminder of His love and promise of eternal life.*

Saints and Feasts in April 2020



21/4/2020 ST FRANCIS OF PAOLA (HERMIT) At the age of thirteen, Francis of Paola lived in a Franciscan friary and a year later, went on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. He returned home and lived as a hermit in a cave by the sea. Eventually Francis was joined by others and a chapel was built at the cave site. He built his new community around his one word motto; charity. He became famous for his prophecies and was said to be a miracle worker. In 1482

the Pope sent him to France, at the special request of King Louis XI who was dying and sought a cure. He spent his remaining 25 years in France helping to bring peace between France and Spain.

4/4/2020 ST ISIDORE OF SEVILLE (BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH) born in Spain in C. 560 AD to parents of high social rank. His elder brother, St Leander, served as Archbishop and was one of a body of learned men who taught Isidore at the Cathedral school of Seville. Following his brother's death in C. 600 AD, Isidore succeeded as Archbishop of Seville. During his 32 years of service, he worked to assimilate the remaining Roman culture with the ruling barbarian culture of the Visigoths through education – introducing his countrymen to the Greek philosopher Aristotle. Regarded as one of the most learned men of his age, Isidore was the first Christian writer to attempt to compile an encyclopaedia of universal knowledge. In 1997, he was nominated to be the patron saint of the internet by Pope John Paul II.



5/4/2020 ST VINCENT FERRER (PRIEST) 1350-1419. was a Dominican friar who was born in Spain and entered the Dominican order in 1367, and quickly distinguished himself as a philosopher and preacher. He was a prolific and very successful preacher throughout Europe; he was able to end the schism in the Church which had begun in 1409, when there were three claimants to the See of Peter. Worn out by his labours he died in France on the 5th of April 1419. A spontaneous and popular cult sprang up around him almost immediately. He was canonised in 1458.



7/4/2020 ST JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE (PRIEST) was born of a noble family in 1651 and from a young age was destined for the church. He was ordained a priest in 1678 and with the help of a layman he opened two schools for poor boys and dedicated the remainder of his life to education. Some of his initiatives included the establishment of the first training college for teachers and the division of classrooms into separate grades. Through

his work he founded the Order of the Brothers of the Christian Schools; today there are approximately 20,000 members of the 'Christian Brothers'. Because of John Baptist de la Salle's pioneering efforts, he was declared the patron saint of all school teachers.

11/4/2020 ST STANISLAUS (BISHOP, MARTYR) born of a noble Polish family in 1010. He became a priest and was eventually consecrated bishop of Cracow in 1072. Generous to the poor he was considered a zealous reformer. However, he fell foul of King Boleslaus II who was known as an unjust and violent sovereign. Stanislaus excommunicated the king for his refusal to repent for his wrong doings. The king was enraged and had the bishop apprehended in the middle of a church service and according to tradition, the king despatched Stanislaus himself with his own



sword. St Stanislaus is a patron of Poland.

13/4/2020 ST MARTIN I, POPE AND MARTYR.

Little is known of the early life of the seventh century pope and martyr. He was elected pope in 649, and immediately found himself in the centre of a religious and political controversy. In the Byzantine (Eastern) Empire there was a heresy known as Monothelism, which said that Christ, while on earth, had no human will, but only a divine one. (The Church teaches that Jesus has two wills: a full and perfect divine one, and a full and perfect human one.) Several of the Eastern emperors had favoured Monothelism, supported by the patriarch, or bishop, of the imperial city of Constantinople. Soon after his election, Pope Martin convened a Church council in Rome which officially rejected this teaching and condemned the efforts of the patriarch and emperor to promote it. An angered emperor tried to discredit and later to assassinate the pope. Failing in these efforts, the emperor sent troops to Rome with orders to arrest Martin. Already in poor health, Martin made no resistance, and in the imperial city he suffered torture and imprisonment. He later wrote, "For forty-seven days I have not been given water to wash in. I am frozen through and wasting away with dysentery. The food I get makes me ill. But God sees all things and I trust in Him." Pope Martin was exiled to Crimea, where he died in 655. St. Martin I is honoured as a martyr because of his death in exile; he was the last pope to suffer martyrdom.



29/4/2020 ST CATHERINE of SIENA (Virgin and doctor of the church) born youngest of 25 children of a wealthy Italian family in c1347. From a young age she devoted her life to prayer and became a tertiary sister of the Dominican order despite her parents objections. She worked with the sick and attracted a following of men and women who accompanied her on her frequent journeys. Catherine became heavily

involved in the politics of both Church and State as she attempted to make peace between Florence and the papacy. She urged Pope Gregory to return the papacy to Rome from Avignon, which he did in 1376. His death two years later led to a schism in the Western church, as detractors of the newly elected pope Urban VI set up a rival pope in Avignon. In an effort to restore unity to the church, Catherine gave support to the Urban VI but was exhausted by her efforts. She died soon after suffering a stroke, aged only 33.

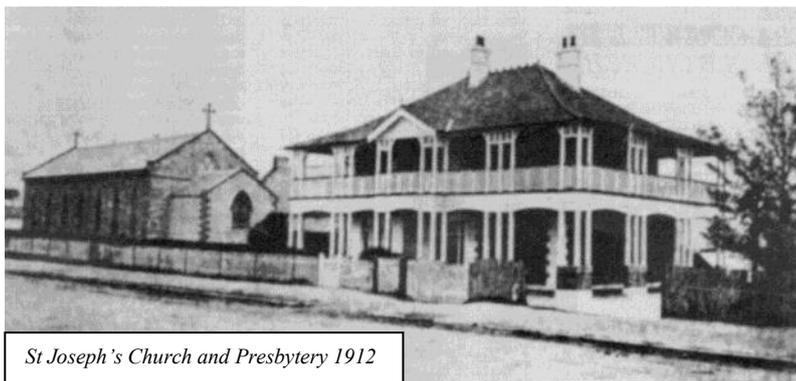


30/4/2020 ST PIUS V; POPE, OPTIONAL MEMORIAL 1504-1572. a Dominican Friar and bishop, was one of the most important popes of the counter-reformation era. Elected pope in 1565 he made it quite clear his intention to implement the degree of the Council of Trent in both letter and spirit. He was immediately loved by the Roman people for his holiness and for his radical reform

of the morals of the city as well as for a drastic and dramatic purge of the Roman Curia. For the needs of the Church he made important decisions. Bishops were to reside in their dioceses, religious orders were to be reformed the Breviary and the Roman Missal updated and made obligatory except where there was a prescription of 200 years in favour of local rites. The Roman Catechism was completed and translated into many languages, and catechetical instruction of the young made obligatory for all parish priests. Well loved for his prayer life and his commitment to monastic austerity, personal devotion, and kindness to the poor and sick. He was canonised in 1712.

© LiturgyHelp; Catholics Online - other saints not mentioned: 21/4 St Anselm; 23/4 St George; 24/4 St Fidelis of Sigmaringen; 27/4 St Louis Grignon de Montfort; 28/4 St Peter Chanel

St Joseph's East Maitland Parish, established 1835 – St Joseph's Church, East Maitland is located on the site of the first church built north of Sydney and records indicate some type of wooden structure on this site as early as 1829. The foundation stone of the old St Joseph's Church was laid on 12th August 1834 by Fr Therry. From this church the foundations of the Catholic Church in the Hunter Valley began. The first resident bishop of the Maitland Diocese, Bishop Murray, said his first Mass in St Joseph's Church and it was from St Joseph's Presbytery that Bishop Murray administered the fledgling Maitland Diocese for five years before he moved to Victoria Street, Maitland in 1871.



St Joseph's Church and Presbytery 1912



East Maitland parishioners with Fr. Morrissey at the closing of the old St Joseph's Church, 13th August 1933

In 1933 St Joseph's church was the oldest Catholic Church still in use in Australia. In that year it was proposed that the old church be demolished and replaced by "a grand brick structure to cope



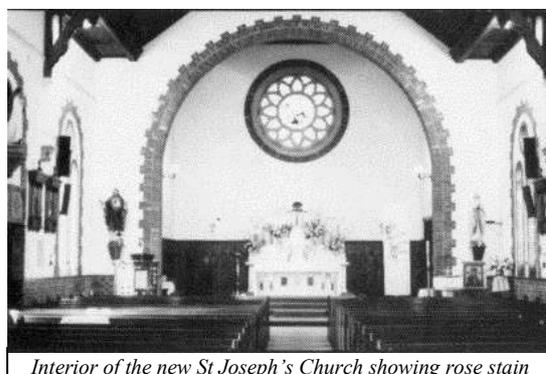
The last Mass in the church built by Fr. Therry

with the increasing population". Donations to support the building of the new church were sought from past and present parishioners.

On 13th August 1933, the last Mass was celebrated in the century old church. As quoted in the Newcastle & Maitland Catholic Sentinel 1st August 1933, "The passing of St Joseph's will close an interesting chapter in the history of the Catholic Church in the Hunter Valley."



Laying of Foundation Stone of the new church 1933



Interior of the new St Joseph's Church showing rose stain

On 19th November 1933 parishioners gathered to witness Maitland's Bishop Edmund Gleeson lay the foundation stone of the new church. They stood on the spot where, more than a hundred years earlier Fr Therry had laid the foundation stone of the original church. The opening ceremony of the new St Joseph's Church was held on Sunday 22nd April 1934.

A feature of the new church is the rose window behind the altar. This window is a link with the old church as the stained glass of St Joseph and the glass around it came from the first church. Also from the old church are the Stations of the Cross fitted with new surrounds. Another link with the past is housed in the western turret of St Joseph's. The church bell once hung in a wooden belfry alongside the old church. It now hangs above the marble plaques commemorating the former parish priests of East Maitland and continues to summon all to prayer.

Next issue Maitland Parish

*Resources used: Centenary-The Diocese of Maitland 1866-1966 by Rev Harold Campbell
St Joseph's Parish East Maitland 150 years 1835-1985
St Joseph's Church East Maitland 50 Years of Celebration 1933-1983
The Newcastle & Maitland Catholic Sentinel – August 1, 1933*



Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

To quote from the Pastoral Letter to the Pastors and People of the Archdiocese of Sydney in a Time of Pandemic 18 March 2020 from the Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney –

Apocalypse now? Drought, fires, storms and now plague. It can feel like the end of the world is coming. In a sense it is. The world as we know it is being turned upside down – at least temporarily.....
... If this pandemic shakes us up and starts us thinking about who or what's most important to us and what we should be doing with our lives, that can be a good thing.....
....The Church in Australia was founded at a time when the Mass could not be celebrated on these shores and our forefathers and mothers waited for years to receive the Holy Eucharist. For us it will be at worst a matter of weeks or months. But just as prayer sustained them through those times, so can it for us today.

We are now all going on retreat together

Our enforced retreat from the world can be an opportunity to grow closer to God and more prayerful...
For the full version of the Pastoral Letter please go to - www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/cathedral-bulletin-and-music-booklet-for-the-1030am-mass-22nd-march-2020

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Since the Pastoral Letter from Bishop Bill we have endeavoured to keep the doors of St Joseph's Church opened from at least 10am to 4pm. Thank you to all who enabled us to achieve this, even for a very short time. Unfortunately due to the directives announced by the Prime Minister on Sunday 22nd March, we closed the doors of the church at midday on Monday 23rd March.
It is now more important than ever that we pray together with others, in families and in small groups, as well as individually. Pray the Rosary, asking Our Lady to intercede for us.

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The following hymn came into my mind in the dark of the night – the lyrics can bring great comfort in this time of crisis.

Though the Mountains May Fall by Dan Schutte.

*Refrain: Though the mountains may fall and the hills turn to dust,
yet the love of the Lord will stand
as a shelter for all who will call on his name.
Sing the praise and the glory of God.*

Could the Lord ever leave you?
Could the Lord forget his love?
Though a mother forsake her child,
He will not abandon you. *Refrain.*

Should you turn and forsake him,
He will gently call your name.
Should you wander away from him,
He will always take you back. *Refrain.*

Go to him when you're weary;
He will give you eagle's wings.
You will run, never tire,
For your God will be your strength. *Refrain.*

As he swore to your Fathers,
When the flood destroyed the land.
He will never forsake you;
He will swear to you again. *Refrain.*

Text: Based on Isaiah 54:6-10; 49:15; 40:31-32; Dan Schutte. Text and music © 1975, OCP.
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Contributors: Dan Schutte.

On behalf of the East Maitland Parish Team, I would like to wish you all well and look forward to the time when we will all be able to meet together again to celebrate Mass in our parish churches.
Take care and do what you can for each other. God Bless.

Parish News - Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield

As all of our churches are now closed until further notice and religious gatherings are also now restricted, we will all now try to keep in touch and work to protect and support each other in other ways to the very best of our ability. To that end I hope that the resources found on the following website may be of assistance.

The Catholic Church in Australia is served by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, which is the permanent collegial assembly of the Bishops of Australia.

This can be found at the following link: <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>. To go to this link hold the mouse over the link and press Ctrl+left click.

On this website you will find the following link: [The Bishops Conference is providing resources to support people's prayer life, including links to online Masses and a Sunday prayer resource. They can be accessed on this page.](#) On the site you will find a list of 'Liturgical and Scripture resources'

Under this heading the following link can be found:

https://www.catholic.org.au/images/synod/Prayers_for_Time_of_Pandemic.pdf

This is one of the prayers found at the Prayers for Time of Pandemic link.

For peace of soul

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you.

All things are passing:
God alone is changeless.

Patience gains all things,
Who has God wants nothing.

God alone suffices.

.... *St Teresa of Avila*

Stay safe everyone.

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

Holy Family Largs:

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).

**Suspended until
further notice**

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

Parish News - St Patrick's Lochinvar

LOCHINVAR PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM - CANCELLED

Parish News - St Paul's Rutherford

March 2020 - Colleen Canny Reporting

Well our Easter preparation is underway with Ash Wednesday, commencing our Easter for 2020. A number of our parishioners gathered at Gabby's and Peter's home to enjoy lunch and prepare for the fast approaching Easter season.

I attended the opening Mass at St Paul's for 2020, Stacey Mullin school principal welcomed the visitors and very proud families. The students proudly sang the school song 'THIS IS OUR SCHOOL'. Fr Paul celebrated Mass and St Paul's students were very much involved.

It included an Acknowledgment of Country

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old

May we acknowledge the traditional owners, the Wonnarua people whose culture and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture this land since men and women awoke from the great dream.

We honour the presence of these ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land and whose irrepressible spirituality flows through all creation.

The Mission for St Paul's Rutherford

With Faith in Jesus Christ We Learn Love and Service.

We Share Our Many Gifts In Service To One Another

We Build Strength And Resilience To Grow As A Community Of Learners

We develop Positive Relationships With Respect And Dignity To All

After the conclusion of Mass, the Class candles and badges were blessed. Finally the commissioning of the school leaders for 2020:

School Leaders

Darcy Brennan, Macyn Philpott, Natasha Hague, Joshua Fenton

Sports Captain's

Dwyer Captains Heath Connell, Sabrina Callinan

McAuley Captains Caleb Chisholm, Amelia Rollason

Murray Captains Ben Ariel Zoey Groves

Mc Killop Captain's Braye Walls Jasmine Goward



On Sunday 1st March at the 8am Mass at St Paul's - Mini Vinnies and St Paul's teachers were commissioned. St Paul's SVdP Conference proudly watched these young ambassadors following in the footsteps of Frederick Ozanam. Fr Paul celebrated Mass, which was well attended. An altar had been set up as a focal point to highlight the philosophy and the message of the St Vincent de Paul conference. We continue to be very proud of our St Paul's primary school students.



Parish News - St Paul's Rutherford



St Paul's also welcomed Florida Rafer from the Philippines, and Sue Lomi from the Caritas National office who spoke on the needs of the Caritas .

On the 08-03-2020, a presentation of the Sacrament of Initiation.

Our seasonal, outreach gathering on Thursday 26-03-2020 will be held at the Maitland Art Gallery for coffee and cake, and of course conversation.

- NOW SUSPENDED!

Many of our parishioners, have, indicated their attendance at the Rob Galea's Concert on the 31-03-2020. I believe very popular, and tickets are very limited. **NOW SUSPENDED!**

Congratulations to **Sr Margaret Gannon** on her 70 years of Religious Profession as a Dominican Sister. Sister was very much loved by the San Clemente Girls the 1959's students, myself being one of them. Sister was at that time Sr Agnes, and taught us the word **VERITAS, Always ADHERED TO following our completion of our studies.** Sister is always pleased to know these same students meet regularly.

Wishing everyone a very HAPPY EASTER

HAVE NO ANXIETY AT ALL, BUT IN EVERYTHING, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, MAKE YOUR REQUESTS KNOWN TO GOD. THEN THE PEACE OF GOD THAT SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS. (PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7)

Parish News - Immaculate Conception

Although we are all in a state of isolation let us remember that as a faith community we are united in prayer. Make sure we keep in contact by phone or other electronic means to ensure all those we know are OK. Prayer is a powerful tool and along with the rules laid down by the Government we can conquer this virus in the shortest possible time without the loss of those near and dear to us.

The decision by the Bishops of Australia to no longer allow parishioners to commemorate the Passion of Christ in their own Church without a priest was met with much disappointment and dissent. Following representations from many parishioners I, as the leader of the Parish Pastoral group wrote to our Bishop voicing the concerns of the Morpeth parish Community and requesting he pass this onto the Bishop's Conference. Although their decision will not apply this Easter because of the lock-down of all Churches, we will continue to pursue it going forward.

As soon as the all clear is given by the Government then we will revisit our Spiritual and Social calendar for 2020.

Keep safe and well

**Youth Groups Suspended
until further notice**

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

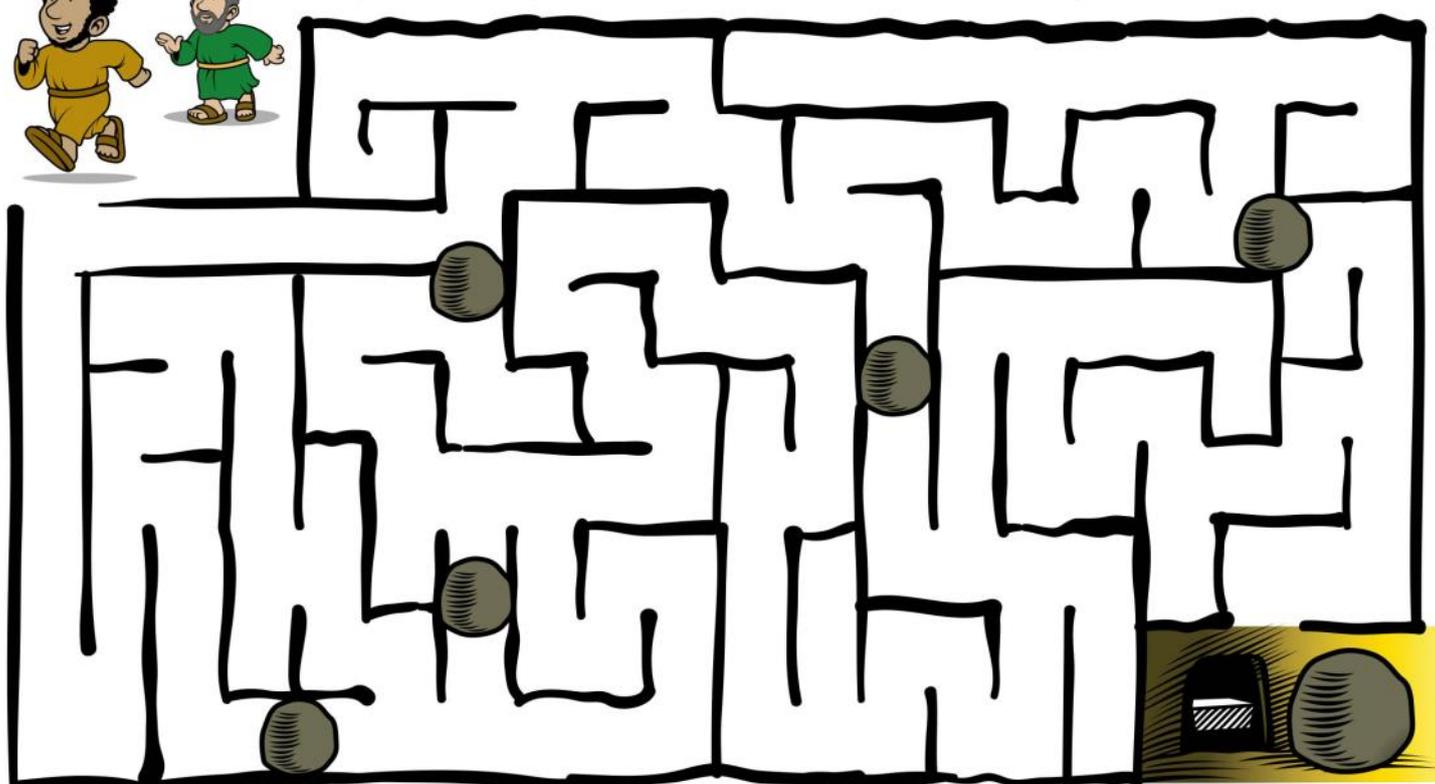
Tuesdays East Maitland – 5.30pm Junior Youth Group, 7pm Youth Mass

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

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.



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