



## Maitland Parishes of the Chisholm Pastoral Region

Communities Gathering in Prayer and Worship

### All Masses are suspended until further notice

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

#### Family Ministry Co-ordinator, Hunter Deanery

Lucy Sneesby-Tooth 0417 773 444

#### 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

### CHISOLM CONNECTION APR/MAY 2020

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## BULLETIN FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A, 26th April, 2020

**First Reading Acts 2:14, 22-33** It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,  
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad  
and my tongue cried out with joy:  
my body, too, will rest in the hope  
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades

nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me,  
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

**Resp. Psalm (R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Pt 1:17-21** The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb

without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

**Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. *Alleluia!*

**Gospel Lk 24:13-35** They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

# Homily - 3rd Sunday of Easter.....by Fr John

Following His Resurrection, it seems the Lord looked very different from how he'd appeared previously. Mary Magdalene at the tomb mistook Him for the gardener until He called her by name. And in today's account of the risen Christ joining the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they didn't recognise Him either until their eyes were opened at the breaking of bread at supper. It seems a bit of mystery, doesn't it! And it raises the question of how different we will look, compared with how we are now, at the general resurrection on the Last Day.

Jesus died in the flesh but was raised up in the Spirit. He died in His mortal body but was raised up as an immortal body. It's a sign to us of renewal and transformation through faith in God. St Paul and St Thomas Aquinas both discussed in their writings what qualities we can expect *our* resurrected bodies to have on the Last Day. One of these, which is called *Clarity*, is that our bodies will be perfected, meaning we'll appear as we were in the prime of our years, though without blemish, deformity or defect of any kind. Other qualities of our glorified bodies will include: *Impassibility* (complete immunity to any kind of illness, injury or death), *Subtlety* (the ability to pass freely through physical barriers, like a spirit) and *Agility* (the body will respond to the soul's every prompting instantly in every way). Our bodily resurrection will therefore be a truly marvellous thing to look forward to.

Now what is the purpose of all these enhancements to the body? Since a human being is both a body and a soul, it will be to enable us to experience with the fullness of our being, the wondrous glories of the Divine life, "the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). Just think, every second of the day, every beat of our heart, brings us that much closer to that time when we'll attain life's great fulfilment.

Its in the context of this hope, that St Peter in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading today is reminding us to remain always careful, never become side-tracked or lose sight of this glorious goal, an inheritance won for us at the price of the "blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ". The best way we can do this, particularly under the current circumstances, it to keep the Word of God always at the centre of our daily lives. If we keep it as our compass, our rudder and our map, we'll never go wrong.

And with this Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April being Anzac Day, we also at this time specially give thanks to God for all those who gave their lives or suffered in any way in times of war, in the defence of our lives and our freedoms. May they rest and rejoice in the peace of the Lord.



*We pray for*

### ***All Recently Deceased***

Annette Balcombe, Ronald 'Bocka' Francis Berthold

### ***Anniversaries***

Sr Paschal Bruton, Margaret Burgess, Michael Burgess, Thomas Cantwell, Michael Cotter, Rev Patrick Finn, Rev James Flynn, Margaret Kauter, Mary Helen Kealy, John Linehan, Darcy Martin, Helen McCrohon, Sr Columkille McGinley, Sr Ambrose Moylan, Sr Virgilius Perkins, Rev John Quinn, Jim Riley, James Taylor, Frederick Thomas, Kathleen Anne Woodhead

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

### ***the Sick***

Charlotte Ayers, Jeanette Bailey, Rosario Bugna, Monique Bull, Margaret Camps, 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 Hurmey, 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, Margaret Sipple, Steven Small, Anne Standing, Margaret Sullivan, Thomas Sullivan, Jan (John) Szczudluk, Ron Taylor, Bill Temperley, Robert Threlfo, Mo Toleafoa, Jo Winkler

***We remember and pray for those who are ill at home ad in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ.***

### ***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

# 3rd Sunday of Easter.....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 for the leaders of the Church, for Pope Francis, Bishop Bill and the Priests of our Dioceses that the Lord may strengthen them with his Spirit to be the light of Jesus in the darkness of our world.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray to you our God of everlasting mercy, to strengthen our faith in the resurrection that Jesus gained for us, that we be made worthy of His sacrifice for us.....We pray to the Lord.

**Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for all our world leaders that they may come to understand that the word of God is the true source of peace and security in our world.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

On this anniversary of the Anzacs, we remember those who have fought to bring peace to others, and have returned from active service that they to, may find peace in their lives.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for the men and women who are at present, deployed overseas helping to bring peace and justice to our world and keeping our country safe, we ask that they be brought home to their loved ones when their job is done..... We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

For those who have been preparing to receive the Holy Sacraments of our faith that through the Holy Spirit, they may be guided by their love and trust in the light of Christ Jesus .....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for all people who are in isolation because of the Corona virus. May they feel the prayers that we are offering for their comfort and peace in their heart. Give them solace to endure these challenging times.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We give thanks for those who offer encouragement and support in Faith to all in need, may they continue to be blessed with Wisdom and Knowledge to continue their Mission through Christ.....We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are not well especially those who are suffering from the virus, we ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten those working on a solution rid us of this damaging virus. **Lord hear our prayer**

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

**Celebrant:** We thank you, Father, that we know your Son present in the Scriptures and in the breaking of bread, and ask that you hear our prayers in His name - through Christ our Lord.



## A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. AMEN.*

### **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](mailto:chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au)**

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# Message from Fr John

Dear friends,

Welcome to our latest edition of the Chisholm Connection. Frs. Paul, Michael, Maurie, Lex and I hope you are all safe and well. We continue to hold you and your intentions in our daily Masses and prayers. We may not be able to be with you physically, but we remain very much united with you in spirit, just as we as the Church remain united in a very real way in and through Christ with the Communion of Saints everywhere, on Earth and in Heaven.

While the liturgical season of Lent is now over and we are well into the season of Easter, as a sign of the desolation we are all experiencing at this time due to the Coronavirus and its restrictions, we have left the Lenten purple drapes in place in many of our churches until we can once more open our doors for regular public worship. This state of being in physical exile from the house of God and only experiencing the sacrifice of the Mass from a distance (electronically) might be a reminder to us of past periods of hardship in our spiritual history. One example that comes to mind is that of the Babylonian exile (587-539 BC) experienced by the Old Testament Israelites, our ancestors in faith, who were cut off from their holy city of Jerusalem and its holy temple for a prolonged period. It might also remind us of our longing for our true home in the Heavenly kingdom. During such times our faith will feel tested, but God's grace is always with us, and may manifest in new and enriching ways through our on-going reflection on the Word of God. Think of the Book of Daniel born out of the Babylonian captivity with its rich harvest of wisdom, visions and revelations (eg "I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man...His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty" Dan 7:13).

During these days of social distancing, I would particularly like to thank our office staff who have been so understanding and flexible in their work practises in order to keep everything going while respecting distancing requirements, by regularly working from home as needs require, attending meetings via Zoom, continuing to manage our finances, handle enquiries and prepare and email out our weekly bulletins. Also, thanks to all those who have taken wonderful initiatives to keep so many isolated parishioners in your areas (including many elderly and infirm people) supported and informed. And to our various parish teams, especially our Bereavement and RCIA Teams, who continue to be active at this time.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we will keep you in ours.

With love and blessings,

Fr John

## 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.

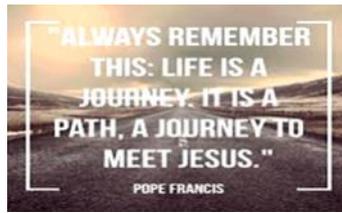
We will communicate with families in Term 4, 2020 with information regarding the 2021 program  
Extract from Bishop Bills Pastoral Letter 19/3/2020

*"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](mailto:SOIchisholm@mn.catholic.org.au)

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# Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA



Firstly, as you would be aware, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the journey to full Initiation into our Catholic faith at Easter has been postponed for our current group of Journeyers.

Normally, throughout the Season of Easter to Pentecost Sunday (their final RCIA meeting) the Neophytes i.e. new Catholics would be learning more about living a Catholic life with-in the parish and the broader communities.

As expected it was a huge disappointment to them after months of preparation and expectation.

For this very reason they all need the vital support from the parishioners even more during this ongoing delay to their full initiation. So, please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers until we can gather again to have their Sacraments of Initiation completed.

Just a reminder, the un-baptised (Catechumen) attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on 1<sup>st</sup> of March, prior to the closure of our churches. From then they become known as "The Elect". They are:

Elliott Plank	Immaculate Conception Morpeth
Tomara Brown	St Joseph's East Maitland
Troy McWha	St Joseph's East Maitland
Ron Perkins	St Joseph's East Maitland
Meg Martin	St Joseph's East Maitland
Belinda Pearson	St Joseph's East Maitland

Also, together with these un-baptised travelling on their sacramental journey are those people who have been baptised previously in other Christian faith traditions. They are known as Candidates (for full Communion into the Catholic Church). They are:

Richelle Lloyd	Sacred Heart Campbell's Hill
Nigel Richardson	Our Lady Of Lourdes Beresfield
Brooke Boughton	St Joseph's East Maitland
Nicole Murphy	St Joseph's East Maitland
Drew Reid	St Joseph's East Maitland
Katrina Easton	St Joseph's East Maitland
Christine Brown	St Joseph's East Maitland

In the meantime, the RCIA team are continuing to keep in contact with them and their sponsors and support people. The team are providing the various resources and opportunities available such as on line liturgies, prayers, reflections and other links as they come available.

As we have a new Paschal Candle, may we take time to reflect on the Mystery of our Faith and wait with joyful expectation with our Elect and Candidates.

May the Holy Spirit lead us during this present un-certainty in the hope that we can soon be together once again in person.

## Pray at Home - Liturgical Resources - Live-stream

9.30am Sunday Mass <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream>

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

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

[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](#)

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

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

If you are interested there is an online pilgrimage, put together by Archdiocese of Sydney, completely free with some amazing speakers <https://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com/>

### Some Useful Diocesan Links

Just Ctrl-click on link below:

[Liturgy page](#) – regularly updated

[Spirituality & Faith page](#) – regularly updated

[MNnews.today](#) – Diocesan News Service

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### Diocesan Social Media Links

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[MNnews.today on Twitter](#)

[CatholicCare on Facebook](#)

[CatholicCare on Twitter](#)

# Support Your Parish

Fr Paul is fully aware of the stresses the past few weeks have had on all of us and he would like to thank those who have been able to establish a regular electronic contribution to the first and second collections while Masses are suspended. Over the past month information on how you can setup a regular electronic payment has been supplied and I believe that those who have joined have found that it is quite simple. This one form looks after both the First and Second Collection.

To establish a regular monthly contribution please complete the attached form and give me a call or email so I can guide you, step by step through the process to ensure both the first and second collections are identified.

Alternatively, many parishioners are well versed these days on internet banking and would prefer to process their own payment to the parish. If this sounds like you, click onto this link <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/parish-payments/> and follow the prompts remembering to type in your Parish where requested.

If you are already an electronic contributor to the Planned giving scheme of your parish and you would like to donate to the first collection this is quite simple – please email me with the amount and the parish and it is as easy as that.

As I am working from home my best form of communication is email – [Louise.gilchrist@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Louise.gilchrist@mn.catholic.org.au) but I am happy to have a chat so please just call the office and leave a message for me to call you – with thanks *Louise*



## St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW/ACT

*good works*

### St Vincent de Paul and the Plague in 1600s



St. Vincent de Paul was no stranger to pandemics. Outbursts of the plague ravaged Europe frequently during his active years, taking the lives of many whom he loved. Tragedies piled up in Vincent's life, especially in the 1650's. He often spoke of "war, plague and famine" as the scourge of the poor. In his letters and conferences, Vincent mentioned the plague more than 300 times, and offered practical advice about helping plague victims to his friends.

In his talks, he described the plague in France, Algiers, Tunis, Poland, and throughout Italy. The dimensions were staggering. France alone lost almost a million people to the plague in the epidemic of 1628-31. In roughly the same period in Italy, 280,000 died. In 1654, 150,000 inhabitants of Naples succumbed. Algiers lost about 40,000 people in 1620-21 and again in 1654-57.

Much of what Vincent said and how he reacted to the pandemic is relevant today as members of the Vincentian Family confront COVID-19. Vincent remained convinced that, no matter what the circumstances, we must never abandon the poor. They are "our portion" in life, he stated. He was firm in telling the members of his Family that, even in extremely difficult circumstances, we must be creative in finding ways to tend to the needs of the suffering.

Vincent urged his followers to stay near the plague-stricken and not abandon them; on the other hand, he encouraged his followers to observe the cautions that civil and ecclesiastical leaders were recommending.

(Source Material: Fr Robert Maloney CM)

### Assisting the Poor during Covid-19

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society are continuing to do their best to support those suffering as a result of the current pandemic. While we are not able to meet people face to face, we are able to assist families through phone support, and by arranging to drop off food vouchers where possible.

We join with members of our community in praying for those who have died and their families, and for a speedy end to this world wide affliction.

Michael Healy

# Coping with Isolation - Fr Michael Kelly SJ

We are all on a sharp learning curve. The virus has reshaped what we had taken for granted in the terms of our living. And the best-informed predictions of an end to our constraints and containment are that we won't see any change till a vaccine comes to our aid. But that won't be for 12 months by most estimates

The fact is old dogs are now going to have to learn new tricks to manage ourselves, our mood swings, our productivity, our relationships and our general sense of coherence.

References to parallel experience for the human race reach back 100 years when the so-called Spanish Flu because the contagious infection started just before the end of hostilities in World War I. So the world scored two knock out blows at the same time – the “war to end all wars” and the deadly outbreak of influenza.

The Spanish flu was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic. Lasting from January 1918 to December 1920, it infected 500 million people – about a quarter of the world's population at the time.

But for me, the experience now brings back memories of almost fifty years ago in my life. In 1971, I was a reckless, willful and driven adolescent who had made up his mind what he was going to do with the rest of his life: become a Jesuit.

In my adolescence and in common with young men attending the Jesuit school I did, we did things like that and believed that our decisions about what came next after high school were determinative for the rest of our lives.

And the school I attended was the full flower of aggressively muscular tribal Catholicism. In my final year at school, 10% of the graduates chose some form of clerical or religious life for their futures.

But when I got to the Jesuit Novitiate, I discovered more than I was prepared for. And I hated the place – full of rules and regulations about everything, full of people giving orders and many of my co-novices who were only too pleased to comply with directions from authorities.

Not my scene I thought and so I had to make a decision: remain or depart. I knew there was much more ahead that had attracted me to the Jesuits in the first place. I had seen them at work leading lives that were beneficial (to others) and enriching (to themselves). So, I decided I would see this unhappy experience through to get to where I wanted to be. The Holy Spirit had some say too as I will explain after describing the coping mechanisms I developed.

The most helpful things I learnt – and I must say I am resorting to this way of coping through the spread of the virus – came to me through a book that had only been recently published at that time: *Total Institutions* by the Canadian author Erving Goffman.

(Nicki Lisa Cole)

As one of Goffman's commentators puts it: *A total*

*institution is a closed social system in which life is organized by strict norms, rules, and schedules, and what happens within it is determined by a single authority whose will is carried out by staff who enforce the rules.*

Goffman examines institutions from jails and concentration camps to psychiatric hospitals and monasteries to establish the key features of total institutions which come down to being seen as places defined by a command and control management structure rigorously enforced.

Bingo! My novitiate experience exactly.

The effect of such places is that your life is in someone else's hands, that your decisions are made for you about your life by others, that you live in a world of isolation from the normal and natural flow of human interaction.

Such places may be bearable for introverts who create their own lives, projects and activities for themselves and usually all with themselves. It's bad if you are like me - an extrovert who gets life from engagement and interaction and likes life to be open ended to receive what comes my way and respond to it.

And what does this “command and control” world sound like? It's precisely where we are globally. We are in lockdown, with our activities and interactions restricted by all-commanding authorities (governments and police) and our mobility constrained by regulations we have to follow or be punished if we disobey them.

The terrain of a total institution has extended to encompass our whole lives – work, education, recreation, exercise and most importantly interaction with others.

Unlike my decisions in the Novitiate, the situation the world is in now is not one we have chosen to embrace. It is one thrust upon us, and one over which we have little or no control. In it, we are being challenged to use our life experiences and faith to see the hand of God in this new situation.

I plan to follow the pattern I learnt under such constraints 50 years ago:

1. Stop reacting by rebelling;
2. Place some order in my life with tasks that are planned and executed even if in a solitary condition;
3. Spend more time in contemplation to find the depth of my heart and desire to stay as alive in my depths as I can; and above all
4. Keep hope alive by saying to myself that “this too shall pass” and the good things I long to renew action on will eventually happen again if not for a couple of years...just as I had to keep saying to myself in the Novitiate.

I wasn't there the day the virtues were handed out and so I never got my allocation of patience. I will have to learn that day by day.

# 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. †Parent 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.**

## Chisholm Connection

### Deadline & Distribution Dates 2020

ISSUE	EDITORIAL DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION DATE
MAY	18th May	31st May 2020

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

## YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT TO US

**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!

**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/about/parish-payments>

† **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."

## BULLETIN NOTICES/ANNIVERSARIES

**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.

## CONCERNING ACCESS TO OUR CHURCHES

The Government has asked that all places of worship be closed and can only be used for five people at a wedding and 10 people at a funeral respecting social distancing.

We would ask that no other parishioner enter the churches of our region (a number of our parishioners have keys to our churches) until the ban is lifted. We all look forward to the time when we can gather again to celebrate Mass and to pray in our parish churches.



*God of mercy, on the day he rose from the dead your Son met his disciples with a greeting of peace. Hear our prayer for peace today as we remember and*

*regret the terrible cost of war. Bless us and our world with your Spirit of peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/4228/family-prayer-1-anzac-day-25-april-2020.pdf>

**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Thank you!  **Caritas AUSTRALIA**

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2020. We thank you for electronically donating your Project Compassion funds this year due to the Corona Virus. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) to make your donation online. Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

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



# What's Happening in the Chisholm Region/Diocese

## LIFE AT HOME IN ISOLATION!

Send us your photos: If you are happy to share some photos of your life at home in isolation, maybe doing some of those things that help us keep going: praying, knitting, playing cards, cooking, prayer space etc. please send them through to our office email

Chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au. You can also send in your tips for getting through. Have you got a favourite recipe you could share? A book you've read that you might review for others? A poem? A short story? All elements for keeping together and staying afloat as a Parish family.

## MAKING IT REAL ART COMPETITION

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement *Making it real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world*, affirms the positive possibilities for encounter and solidarity offered by new digital media, while warning of those elements of our digital world that may be harmful. The Statement points out that we are called not just to be inhabitants of this new digital world, but active citizens shaping it.

Artists are invited to create a work based on the themes in the Social Justice Statement. Works must be on A3 paper, with a 150-word artist statement accompanying the work. Entries close Friday 14 August. Exhibition date is Saturday 29 August at San Clemente High School, Mayfield. \$150 prize for each category (Stage 3,4,5,6 and adult). Contact [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au) for more information.

## Marriage and Relationship Education

Do you know someone who is getting married or someone in a relationship who would like to know more about how to create strong, stable relationships? CatholicCare Social Services



Hunter Manning offers pre and post marriage and relationship education workshops and individual sessions that explore the research around intentional connected relationships. They have the aim of supporting couples to build and maintain 'relationship satisfied' partnerships.

Online workshops will be run soon. Go to [www.catholiccare.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.org.au).



Gary Pinto has outstanding talent, and a heart to match. On Saturday, May 9, Gary will be hosting a free online concert for Project Compassion, bringing Australian and International music stars directly from their loungeroom, to yours!  
**Link to come!**



### OZ Rosary#53

This year 'Oz Rosary' 2020 will be held on the feast of 'Our Lady Help of Christians' on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

We will be praying for the protection of Australia, an end to the Coronavirus pandemic, reparation for our own sins, the sins of our country and for a spirit of Evangelism in the church.

It is hoped that this can be combined with Holy Hour and prayers of Reparation for our country and its sins as well as our own. If the current situation of social isolation continues, then we will be able to unite our prayers from our homes with the use of the internet.

### CONSECRATION TO OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8)*

Mary, you are the mother of Jesus, Our Lord.

Your presence in the upper room inspired the first disciples to trust completely in the promise of the Risen Christ.

I now consecrate myself to you under the title of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians, so that I might be a witness to your Son Jesus in the power of His Spirit. Mary, teach me to be attentive to the voice of God in silence and to live a life of service in truth, joy and peace.

# Thank Heavens!

When he arrived at the racecourse the day was already stinking hot and he wondered how he was going to see out the afternoon. He was sorely tempted to visit the air-conditioned members' bar but decided he'd better not just in case anyone recognised him. Fortunately, there was a spot beneath the old grandstand which was shady with a small bar where he could enjoy a quiet beer alone.

By mid-afternoon the sky had become black and menacing and not long afterwards hail began to fall. This was followed by torrential rain, thunder and lightning, and such ferocious winds that he wondered if it might be a sign - a punishment from heaven. Yet no sooner had he had this thought than the clouds parted and once more the sun began to shine. He looked at his empty glass trying to decide whether he'd had one too many.

Fifteen minutes later and to everyone's astonishment the track was still officially rated 'fast' for the running of the *Lightning Stakes*, the main event on the program. This was the one he'd been waiting for and he'd been hoping for a firm track. "Thank heavens!" he exclaimed. With this he rushed off to the SP bookies' circle, found someone offering odds of fifty-to-one on his fancy Irish Lass and bet his entire kitty of one thousand, two hundred and nineteen dollars and forty cents for a win.

The race began right on time at three-thirty and the next couple of minutes turned out to be among the most nerve-racking of his life. His filly jumped cleanly but then seemed to stumble on the first bend and dropped back to a distant last. For a moment the horse appeared so distressed the course announcer suggested it might have broken a leg and would have to be put down. A number of frustrated punters who'd supported this rank outsider ripped-up their tickets and threw them into the air and Irish Lass wasn't seen or heard of again for the next four furlongs. Then, as though resurrected by a hand from heaven, in the final stretch the filly suddenly appeared out of nowhere and went on to score by a length.

"Alleluia! Thankyou Saint Jude - I owe you one!" cried the lucky punter over the lamentations of the crowd. "Tonight I will say extra prayers for the souls of all these poor misguided gamblers."

"Father, how would you like that - cash or cheque?" asked the bookie's bursar when he went to collect.

"Cash. Definitely cash", he replied, wondering how he could possibly replace the borrowed church collection money with a cheque.

Less than an hour later, after pushing the speed limit just a tad and running a number of orange lights, he arrived back in his parish carpark with a screech of rubber. He glanced at his watch and let out a sigh of relief. It was four-thirty and he'd made it just in time to hear evening confessions. But looking up he beheld a dark and menacing figure gazing down at him from the steps of the presbytery. It was the visiting primate, Bishop Stern, with his arms folded and a scowling face.

"A very good day to you, bishop!" he called out. "Lovely weather, isn't it!"

The primate approached the car, loudly clearing his throat: "So nice of you to return my car in one piece, Father Priddle". He seemed to be examining every inch of the vehicle as if looking for dents. Finally his eyes came to rest on the front passenger seat and Priddle realized he spotted the bag of money he'd forgotten to hide.

"You're back just in a nick of time for confessions, and there are parishioners waiting, so I suppose I mustn't detain you", continued the bishop. "However, there is one thing..."

Priddle saw how intensely he was still eyeing the bag and knew the game was up. When the bishop discovered the contents he would be a cooked cat.

"Yes, bishop?"

# Thank Heavens!

"All I wanted to know was - well how long has it been since you yourself last confessed?" asked the primate awkwardly, as though embarrassed, before looking him directly in the face.

Priddle couldn't help smiling, delighted the bishop's attention had somehow been diverted away from the bag. "Actually, it was only a week ago, bishop."

"Oh! To whom?"

"Father Benedict at St Catherine's. That's where I normally go."

The primate seemed horrified. "What! You went to a neighbouring diocese to confess? And to a priest who's almost deaf?" Suddenly his tone softened. "After all, we are all brothers here, Priddle. We should be able to confide in each other".

"Yes, bishop. I just didn't want to burden anyone else with my troubles."

The bishop smiled reassuringly. "Father Priddle, come to me tomorrow and unburden your troubles on me. But for now give me the car keys - I need to visit someone."

It wasn't until after the car had zoomed off and he was comfortably seated in the confessional, ready to receive his first penitent, that Priddle realized the bag of money was still on the front seat of the car. His heart started to race and was soon pounding in his chest like a drum. A shiver ran up his right side and he began to feel nauseous. At the same time the parishioner behind the screen was starting to become impatient. "Hello, Father?... Is there anyone there?..."

Due to a moment's carelessness the one thing he'd worked so hard for had now been thrown into jeopardy. Although he had had a weakness for gambling throughout his seventy-four years (or at least as long as he could remember), he'd always used it in the service of others. And every dollar he'd won over the past couple of years had gone into the parish coffers. Without it the parish would've closed years ago and many poor souls would've been left destitute. Desperate, he prayed to his patron, St Jude, promising to say ten rosaries and give up all gambling and alcohol if only he could be saved from the bishop's wrath.

He had just recovered himself somewhat and was about to draw across the screen to hear the first confession when the door suddenly burst open. It was the bishop.

"Here, Priddle!" cried the primate, thrusting the bag of money into his lap. "You left this in the car."

Priddle shook uncontrollably as the accusing evidence bounced between his shaking knees. He wanted to say something but couldn't - his tongue was stuck in his palate. This was the end.

The bishop looked down at him gravely and took a deep breath. "Father Priddle, I must inform you the reason I came to your parish was to personally investigate certain allegations received by the Archdiocese concerning fraud and misappropriation of church funds. Well this afternoon I went through your financial records at length and must inform you that to my surprise - I found everything to be in order."

The bishop turned to leave, then as if having an afterthought turned back. "Just one other thing - ", he asked, smiling, "do you have any hot tips for next Wednesday's gallops at Randwick? Some of our other parish priests haven't been doing too well lately and I'm afraid their revenue levels for the year aren't looking too bright".

Thank  Heavens

A Short Story by Fr John Lovell

# Saints and Feasts in May 2020



**1st May. St Joseph the Worker.** St Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary and adoptive father of Jesus, was a descendant of King David and a carpenter by trade. The gospels tell us little about his life but he is honoured for his role in providing for and raising the child Jesus. He is patron saint of workers, particularly carpenters, as well as patron of fathers and families.

**2nd May. St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church (c.296-373),** Athanasius was born in Alexandria to Christian parents in c.297. He was educated at a catechetical school and later went to the desert to spend time in retreat with St Anthony the hermit. He became Bishop of Alexandria in 328 and was a strong supporter of church orthodoxy.



Athanasius was equally strong in his condemnation of Arianism which denied the Divinity of Christ. In his time as bishop conflicts with Arians led to his going into exile on up to five occasions. During this time he continued his writings on theology, as well as a biography of his friend St Anthony. Athanasius is portrayed as one of the Four Eastern Doctors of the Church.



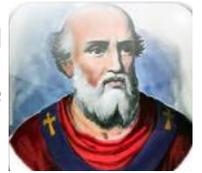
**3rd May. Sts Philip and James, Apostles.** Philip and James were two of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus. After Philip was called to be an apostle, he persuaded Nathaniel (St Bartholomew) to also follow Jesus. At the feeding of the 5,000 Philip passed the remark that, '200 denari would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little'. James was the brother of St Jude, and is often referred to as 'James the Lesser' to distinguish him from James, the son of Zebedee. Some traditions believe James was a cousin of Jesus, and others name him as the author of the Epistle of St James. Traditionally, Philip and James share the same feast day because their remains were both brought to the Church of the Apostles in Rome in May 561.

**13th May. Our Lady of Fatima** In the small Portuguese village of Fatima, the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to three shepherd children. On six occasions between May and October, 1917, Our Lady appeared to Lucia dos Santos and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto. According to an account of the events given by Lucia, Mary entrusted the children with three secrets and encouraged them to do acts of penance and say the rosary every day. Thousands of people came to Fatima upon hearing of the visions, and on October 13, some 70,000 people reportedly witnessed a miraculous solar event. Fatima is now a major site of Marian pilgrimage.



**14th May St Matthias** was a disciple of Jesus who bore witness to his baptism and resurrection and was present when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost. Because of this, his name was put forward as a candidate to become one of the twelve apostles, with the departure of Judas. Two men were nominated, Matthias and Joseph Barsabas. Lots were drawn and Matthias was chosen and enrolled with the eleven apostles. Little else is known about his life; there are confusions in some traditions with the deeds of Matthew the apostle. Some believe he preached in Judea and then Ethiopia before being martyred.

**18<sup>th</sup> May. St John I, Pope and Martyr.**



John I was a sixth-century pope and martyr. Born in Tuscany, was elected Bishop of Rome (that is, pope) in 523. The Mediterranean world was, by this time, divided into the Eastern and Western Empires, each having a separate emperor. Christianity was also divided (though not in a geographic sense) by the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. King Theodoric, the German chieftain who was in effect the Western emperor, was himself an Arian, though he was initially tolerant of the Catholics in his kingdom. Soon after John was elected pope, Justin, the Eastern emperor, began repressing the Arians in the East. Theodoric was upset by this, and he forced John and other religious leaders from the West to visit Justin in Constantinople (capital of the Eastern empire) for the purpose of lessening the restrictions placed upon the Arians. Little is known about the outcome of the negotiations Pope John conducted with Emperor Justin, but because the two leaders got along well together, a paranoid Theodoric assumed they were plotting against him. When John returned to Italy in 526, Theodoric had him arrested. Pope John died soon after he was imprisoned, perhaps as a result of the treatment he received, thus earning a martyr's crown. John was the first of twenty-three popes of that name, and the first one to be canonized a saint.



**20<sup>th</sup> May. St Bernadine of Siena, priest,** was the son of the governor of Siena. He was orphaned at age six and was brought up by his aunt. He became a Franciscan friar at the age of twenty two and travelled all over Italy, preaching several sermons a day to large crowds. He is remembered for his devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. At the end of his sermons he would hold up for veneration a plaque on which he wrote IHS - the Greek translation of 'Jesus'. Through his preaching, Bernardine was responsible for a vast number of conversions to Christianity. In 1437 he became the vicar-general of the Observant branch of the friars, during which time the number of Observants rose tenfold due to his popularity. After establishing theology schools for the friars, he returned to his favourite task of preaching at the age of sixty three, but died a year later on the 20th of May.

**21st May Saint Cristóbal Magallanes Jara, martyr,** also known as Christopher Magallanes is a martyr and saint venerated in the Catholic Church who was killed without trial on the way to say Mass during the Cristero War after the trumped up charge of inciting rebellion. Canonised by Pope John Paul II on 21st May 2000.



**22nd May. St Rita of Cascia, religious,** Augustinian Nun, also called Margarita. She was born in Roccaporena, near Spoleto, Italy in 1381, and expressed from an early age the desire to become a nun. Her elderly parents insisted that she be married at the age of twelve to a man described in accounts of her life as cruel and harsh. She spent eighteen extremely unhappy years, had two sons, and was finally widowed when her husband was killed in a brawl. Both sons also died, and Rita, still anxious to become a nun, tried unsuccessfully to enter the Augustinians in their convent at Cascia. She was refused because she was a widow and because of the requirement that all sisters should be virgins. Finally, in 1413, the order gave her entry, and she earned fame for her austerity, devotion to prayer, and charity. In the midst of chronic illnesses, she received visions and wounds on her forehead which resembled the crown of

# Saints and Feasts in May 2020

thorns. She died on 22nd May at Cascia, and many miracles were reported instantly. Canonised in 1900, she is honoured in Spain as La Santa de los Impossibles and elsewhere as a patron saint of hopeless causes.



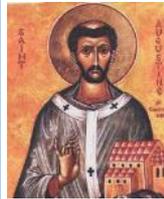
**24th May. The Ascension of the Lord**  
Ascension has always been a part of the joyful celebration of the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost but was singled out for commemoration on the fortieth day toward the end of the 4th century. The feast develops the glory of the resurrection by acclaiming the exaltation of Christ as Lord of heaven and earth. It serves to prepare the Church toward the end of the season of Easter, for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

**25th May. Our Lady Help of Christians** is a The Feast Day of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day, dates back to the start of the 1800's at a time when Napoleon Bonaparte had gaoled Pius VI (who also died in gaol). And later, when Pope Pius VII was elected he too was gaoled by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau. The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary. The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May, 1814 Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome. Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the Feast of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May. The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive. The Australian Catholic community remained faithful to Mary and Australia was the first nation to choose her under the title, 'Mary Help of Christians' as principle Patroness. Australia also became the first country to have a cathedral dedicated in Our Lady, Mary's name. St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was dedicated in her honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry who arrived in Sydney in 1820.



**26th May St Philip Neri, priest,** Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515. His mother died when he was young and he was educated at a Dominican convent. In 1533 he went to Rome and lived as a hermit for two years, then spent a further three years studying theology and philosophy. He gave up his studies and sold his

books and encouraged his friends to join him in working for the sick and visiting the churches of Rome. Philip was ordained a priest in 1551 and he spent many hours hearing people's confessions. He founded the Congregation of the Oratory, which gave its name to the musical form 'Oratorio', which developed from their services.



**27th May St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop,** (Optional Memorial). St. Augustine was born in Rome and died in Canterbury, England, in 604. When Pope Gregory I heard that the pagans of Britain were disposed to accept the Catholic Faith, he sent the prior of St. Andrew, Augustine, and forty of his Benedictine brethren to England. Despite the great difficulties involved in the task assigned to him, Augustine and his monks obeyed. The success of their preaching was immediate. King Ethelbert was baptised on Pentecost Sunday, 596, and the greater part of the nobles and people soon followed his example. St. Augustine died as the first Archbishop of Canterbury. His feast is celebrated in the Extraordinary Form on May 28. According to the 1962 Missal of Bl. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Bede. He was a Benedictine monk in the 8th century, who had great learning and is famous in Christian literature. He died in 735. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is May 25. Today is also the commemoration of St. John I, Pope and Martyr, who died in a dungeon from the hardships he had to endure, in 526. His feast in the Ordinary Form is now celebrated on May 18.

**31st May. Pentecost Sunday.** This, the 'fiftieth day,' concludes the season of Easter, the continuous single festival of the risen Christ. Pentecost, the Jewish feast of harvest, which also commemorates the giving of the Law of Moses, was the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles. The event has been celebrated on this day at least since the third century. The joy of Pentecost is that the risen Christ breathes upon the Church and says, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'.



Other dates : 12th May St Pancras, martyr; Sts Nereis & Achilleus, martyrs; 25th May St Gregory VII, Pope; St Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, virgin; St Bede, Doctor of the Church; 29th May Pope St Paul VI

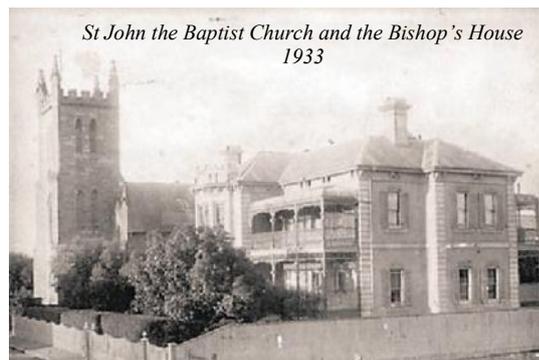
## Happy Mothers Day!

10th May



Loving God,  
as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,  
so you watch over your Church.  
Bless these women,  
that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers.  
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.  
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,  
may honour them always  
with a spirit of profound respect.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
R. Amen.

**Maitland** – When Fr John Lynch set up a Mass centre in West Maitland in 1839 it was located in Plaistowe St, Horseshoe Bend. It was a slab hut with a bark roof and earthen floor. The foundation stone of **St John the Baptist Church** was laid by Bishop Polding at Campbell’s Hill on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1840. The church was never built on the original site but some four years later was erected in Cathedral Street (then Charles St). The church was opened for use in 1846. Before Fr Lynch left Maitland in 1862 he had enlarged the church and added the tower. When Bishop Murray arrived in Maitland in 1866, he took St John’s Church as his Cathedral and on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1866 St John’s became the Cathedral of the Maitland Diocese. The Cathedral served Bishop Murray for 43 years and then gave good service for Bishop Dwyer for 34 years. The Catholic Hall at Maitland, which was built in 1922, was remodeled and was opened as **St John’s Pro-Cathedral** by Bishop Gleeson on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1933. The old St John’s Cathedral underwent renovation and conversion and was blessed and opened as a primary school and Catholic Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1952. The Pro-Cathedral continued to serve the Maitland Diocese until 1995. The earthquake of 1989 caused significant damage to St John’s Pro-Cathedral and because of a change in direction of population movement, the then Bishop of Maitland Diocese, Bishop Leo Clarke took the opportunity to petition Rome for a change of name, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1995, the “Diocese of Maitland” became the “Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle” and the Church of the Sacred Heart at Hamilton became the Cathedral. Recently the diocese has undertaken a major renovation of the original St John the Baptist church which has brought the church back to its former glory and is again in use as a chapel to serve the people of Maitland.



*St John the Baptist Church and the Bishop’s House  
1933*

The Catholic Hall at Maitland, which was built in 1922, was remodeled and was opened as **St John’s Pro-Cathedral** by Bishop Gleeson on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1933. The old St John’s Cathedral underwent renovation and conversion and was blessed and opened as a primary school and Catholic Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1952. The Pro-Cathedral continued to serve the Maitland Diocese until 1995. The earthquake of 1989 caused significant damage to St John’s Pro-Cathedral and because of a change in direction of population movement, the then Bishop of Maitland Diocese, Bishop Leo Clarke took the opportunity to petition Rome for a change of name, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1995, the “Diocese of Maitland” became the “Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle” and the Church of the Sacred Heart at Hamilton became the Cathedral. Recently the diocese has undertaken a major renovation of the original St John the Baptist church which has brought the church back to its former glory and is again in use as a chapel to serve the people of Maitland.



*St John’s Pro-Cathedral*



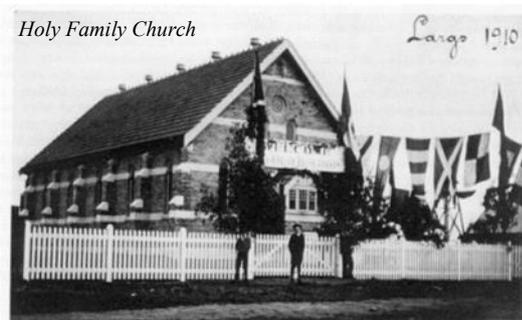
*Interior of St John’s Pro-Cathedral*

**St Columba’s Church** at **Paterson** was consecrated on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1884 by the Bishop of Maitland. It was built by Mr Morris of East Maitland and Mr Coleman who did the brickwork. The total cost of the work was about 400 pounds. The additions of a porch and sacristy area were built in the early 1900’s with the blessing of the extensions held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1926. The church was originally under the umbrella of Gresford Parish, but is now part of the Chisholm Pastoral Region and is administered under Maitland Parish.

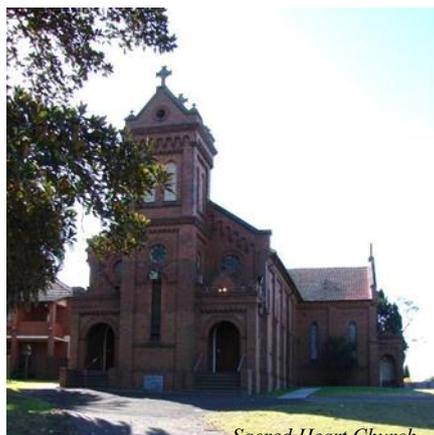


*St Columba’s Church (exterior & interior)*

**Holy Family Church** at **Largs** - A catholic school had been conducted at Largs from 1868 initially established on the “Voluntary Principle” which meant that the people paid for the building and the teacher’s wage. The Sisters of St Joseph’s took charge of the school in 1889. The school building was also used as a church until 1909 when land was purchased on which to build a church. The foundation stone of the Catholic Church was laid on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1910 with the blessing and opening of the church occurring on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 1910. Holy Family Church at Largs is part of Maitland Parish.



*Holy Family Church*



*Sacred Heart Church*  
*Interior*



**Sacred Heart Church at Campbell's Hill** – The foundation stone of a new church to be erected in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus adjoining the Bishop Murray Memorial Orphanage (Monte Pio) at Campbell's Hill was blessed and laid on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1917 and when the church was opened on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1918 was seen as the completion of the Bishop Murray Memorial.

In 1875, to cater for the need of higher education for Catholic boys, Bishop Murray established the Sacred Heart College at Campbell's Hill for both day pupils and boarders. It was established in what had been the residence of Bishop Murray. He had vacated his home so that the college could be established. He then rented a house in Elgin Street as his residence.

When Bishop Murray died in 1909, his successor, Bishop Dwyer decided that a home for orphans would be a fitting memorial for Bishop Murray. The Sacred Heart College had ceased to function in 1905 and the old buildings were still standing being used to accommodate the workers who were constructing the North Coast railway line.

With the Sisters of Mercy in charge, the Bishop Murray Memorial Home for girls was blessed and opened by Bishop Dwyer on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1910. Bishop Dwyer also played a great part in the building of Sacred Heart Church in 1918 and the later extensions.



*Sacred Heart Church and old Presbytery*

*To be continued.....*

*Resources used: Centenary-The Diocese of Maitland 1866-1966 by Rev Harold Campbell  
Centenary of St Columba's Catholic Church Paterson 1884-1984  
The Cedar Ground – A History of Largs Catholic Community by Helen Russell*

## **Jam Drops**

This is a very traditional biscuit recipe so every household may have something similar. Our family has had it handed down from my grandmother Dolly O'Neill and mum Margaret Jacka from East Maitland... I just need to get the sizing of the biscuits a bit more regular

125gram of butter  
3/4 cup of sugar  
1 1/2 cups of self-raising flour  
1/2 lid of vanilla  
1 egg  
Coconut  
Jam (or anything you would like to add eg chocolate drops)

Oven on at 180 degrees

Cream butter & sugar

Add egg and beat until mixed

Mix in flour and vanilla

Roll teaspoon size balls of mixture in coconut Make a finger size indent in the biscuit

Place jam or chocolate or whatever your choice is into the indent Cook until golden Leave to cool before eating (jam will be very hot & biscuit will be too soft)

Enjoy xx Louise



## Parish News - St Joseph's East Maitland

We experienced a very different Easter this year. No family gatherings or long weekend escapes. Our churches were closed but with the wonders of modern technology we were still able to encounter the Risen Lord by connecting with the many live-streamed Liturgies and Masses.

*“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*

*Matthew 18.20*

We may not be gathered in a building but are gathered as Church, an assembly of people, and we are praying for each other and for those that are suffering and we place our trust in God.

Hopefully it will not be too long before we are able to all be together again and what a party that will be!!

Take care, stay safe and if possible reach out to the lonely. This is a difficult time for us all but we need to remain positive and follow the directives given by the government and health authorities and do what we can for each other. God Bless.

☪☪☪ ☪☪☪ ☪☪☪

## 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

Masses suspended until further notice

## Parish News - St Paul's Rutherford

### April 2020 - Colleen Canny Reporting

Sadly we have had many changes since our March Article. All of our plans changed related to the arrival of the VIRUS.

I attended my first Parish Council meeting during the month of March. Tony Seamer now our new Parish Committee Leader, with Dot Seamer administration. It so good to see representation from St Paul's School with Mrs Mullin School Principal, St Vincent de Paul - Margo, School Liturgy and St Paul's Parishioners. So good to see the coordination happening within the Parish.

We were unable to commence our visitation as a result of the VIRUS. St Vincent de Paul decided to commence doing a Cheerios phone call to our Parishioners isolated, to see if they were ok, and if they had any needs. It has been very successful, and appreciated. Unfortunately, many of our Parishioners are not connected to the internet, and are unable to be connected to the Church News. Adrian has been delivering the Church Bulletin, to some of our church members. Food also has been delivered to provide help and support. Many of our Parishioners are able to attend Mass via the internet and I am being challenged with some On Line home schooling. I totally applaud our teachers, as it definitely has to be a vocation.

Thoughts, and Prayers are with you all, during this very difficult time.

Ann Dimmock would like to thank everyone within the St Paul's Parish and community for lighting a candle in memory of Brian Dimmock's second anniversary of his death. She very much appreciated this act of kindness.

## 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](https://www.catholic.org.au/images/synod/Prayers_for_Time_of_Pandemic.pdf)

Stay safe everyone.



## Parish News - Immaculate Conception

**As we reflect on the ongoing requirement to self isolate and social distancing, it is a great time to spend some private time with the risen Lord. The Holy week celebrations, although conducted in isolation provided us with the opportunity to participate with many options as to when and where we joined in the ceremonies. It was wonderful to listen to the many and varied homilies from the comfort of one's lounge room. We travelled via the internet from Sacred Heart Hamilton to St. Brigid's in Marrickville to Wollongong and even to St. Peters in Rome.**

Yes it was a unique experience without losing any of its significance at this most holy and sacred time in our Catholic faith. We say a special thanks to all those who facilitated the television coverage of the Holy Week ceremonies and the ongoing opportunity to celebrate Sunday Mass from our homes for as long as it takes to return to our Church. No doubt the loss of community participation cannot be avoided but nonetheless we can join together in spirit.

Speaking from a personal perspective, the days tend to run into one another without the opportunity to commence the week with the celebration of the 7.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. This is regularly followed by a breakfast enjoyed with friends. To make sure we don't get our days mixed up, one is required to replicate the breakfast menu from one of our favourite eating establishments so as not to break the cycle. The bacon and egg roll is still a favourite and not too difficult for an amateur cook.

When looking through our Spiritual and Social calendar for May it was to be go! go! go!. with the TWEC Dinner, ChapelJazz week-end and the Ecumenical Prayer for Christian Unity at the Anglican Church. However, as all has been cancelled we will have to make up for it in 2021. Although we cannot celebrate as a church community our annual Mothers' Day Mass on the 10th May we can remember them in our prayers as we tune into Mass from our TV.

Keep safe, look out for others and continue to pray that this pandemic will soon be a thing of the past. We can then look forward to getting back to those activities both spiritually and socially, which up until now we have taken for granted!

# ACTiv8 Youth

Hi Everyone, I hope you are all keeping safe, healthy and surviving social distancing.

Our Youth Group leaders and I are missing you all and can't wait to be together again soon.

At Youth Group each week we take time to focus our faith and I know for many of you this has helped you build a stronger relationship with our God.

Just because we are not at Youth Group together doesn't mean this has to stop. We can use this time to continue building our relationship with God.

Each week I listen to a Catholic Influences podcast hosted by Fr. Rob Galea and Danni Sullivan. The podcast helps Catholics delve deeper into the Sunday Gospel Readings and gain a better understanding of the Word of God. To find this podcast search [frgministry.com](http://frgministry.com) and click on the podcast section from the home page.

Don't forget to keep connected with us via our Facebook page. [ACTiv8 Youth Chisholm Ministry](#).

All our love and blessings to you our young people and your families. Bec, Margaret, Adrian, Sue Jordan, Sue O'Donohue, Sr. Joseph, Milly, Isaac, Amber, Luke.



**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.

## 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



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## MY QUARANTINE THINGS

Most of my mornings I ride to the po-ool  
Can't do it these days they'd call me a fo-ool  
Stuck in the yard pool with floaties and rings  
These are a few of my quarantine things

Watching the TV and losing all hope  
Washing and washing and washing with soap  
I'd play the piano but I've lost my zing  
These are a few of my quarantine things

We're on our computer in our living ro-oom  
Having to meet with my friends on this Zo-oom  
I'd go to the playground but can't have a swing  
These are a few of my quarantine things

When the virus bites  
When my throat stings  
When I'm feeling sad  
I simply remember my quarantine things  
And then I don't feel so bad

Boxes of tissues and sanitized gases  
Face masks that tickle my nose and eye lashes  
Thick squares of newspaper tied up with string  
These are a few of my quarantine things

Talking to people at one point five metres  
Bought disinfectant and other germ eaters  
Can't invite guests don't know what they will bring  
These are a few of my quarantine things

Watching the TV just gives me the blu -ooz  
One thing for certain I'll not take a cru -ooz  
Away from the harbor to dry land I'll cling  
These are a few of my quarantine things

When the virus bites  
When my throat stings  
When I'm feeling sad  
I simply remember my quarantine things  
And then I don't feel so bad

*By Greg Byrne & Judy Woolstencroft (Adaptation of Julie Andrews- My Favourite Things!)*

*Used with permission - Forster Tuncurry Bulletin*



*Prayer is an invitation for the believer to  
sacredly communicate with God  
in the depths of faith, hope and love,  
a spiritual practice into the love-life of the Trinity,  
so that we may adore the Father,  
walk in the light of the Son,  
and breathe hope through the hope of the Spirit.*

© Assoc. Professor G. Morrison, Uni of Notre Dame Aust.

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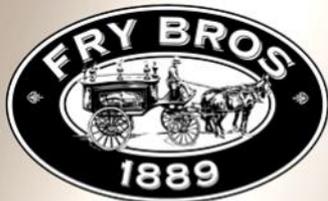
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