

MacKillop Parish

St Mary Immaculate Church
CHARLESTOWN

St Paul's Church
GATESHEAD

St John Vianney Church
REDHEAD



18th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK, YEAR A 2 AUGUST 2026

Church Contacts

Parish Priest & Director of Vocations: Rev Fr Anthony (Tony) Potts
Parish Secretaries: Mrs Maryanne Barry
Ms Lisa Christoff

Liturgy & Faith Formation Co-ordinator: Mr Joel Edwards
Lead Musician: Mr Robert Copas
Promoters of Safeguarding: Fr Anthony Potts
Mrs Simone McAllister
Ms Natalie Pearce
Mr Finnegan Todhunter
Ms Jo Franks
Ms Lynette Blayney

St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub

Address: 7 Milson Street
(PO Box 107)
Charlestown NSW 2290

Phone: 02 4943 4153
After Hours: 02 4021 1906
Email: mackillop.parish@mn.catholic.org.au
mackillopcharlestown.org.au
Website: mackillopcharlestown.org.au
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Address: 841 Hunter Street
Newcastle West NSW 2302

Phone/Fax: 02 4979 1200 / 02 4979 1119
Email: chancery@mn.catholic.org.au
Website: mn.catholic.org.au

Safeguarding

Our Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and MacKillop Parish have an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the foyer to the churches. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding via P: 02 4979 1390 or

E: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au

For further information visit:

Website: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au



Liturgical Times Year A/2 - within Ordinary Time 18

Monday, St Dominic, priest, Memorial

Monday 3 August 9:00am Mass Charlestown

Tuesday, St John Vianney, priest, Memorial

Tuesday 4 August 5:30pm Mass Charlestown

Wednesday, Ordinary Time 18

Wednesday 5 August 9:30am Mass Charlestown

Thursday, The Transfiguration of the Lord, Feast

Thursday 6 August 9:00am Mass Gateshead

Friday, Ordinary Time 18

Friday 7 August 9:00am Mass Gateshead

Saturday, St MARY OF THE CROSS, virgin, Solemnity

Saturday 8 August 9:00am Mass Charlestown
9:30am Adoration and Charlestown
10:00am Benediction Charlestown
Reconciliation Charlestown

Sunday, 19th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 8 August 5:00pm Mass Charlestown

Sunday 9 August 9:00am Mass Gateshead

NB: Eucharistic Adoration will occur for one hour prior to every Mass, except on Saturday mornings.

Liturgy of the Hours will be celebrated 30 minutes before every Mass.

Please Pray For:

Sick: Jenny Phillips, Derek Orrin, Anne Standing, David Ellis, Lucy Bridge, Sarah Williams, Helen Davies, Timothy Brown, Peter John Evans, Jane Mcvicar, Pauline Williams, Emelia D'Aquisto, Margaret Wright, Emma Walsh, Otilie Marie Sheens, Glory Ivanfy, Archie Huxley, Jodie Bell, Mark Evans, Peter Corcoran, Gary Williams, Kathrina Douglas, Gwen Mangan, Nancy Toonan, Douglas Wallace, Heather Bosevski, Leanne Haywood, Eileen March, Roger Pearce, Peter Keen, Athol Sansom, John (Giovani) Prosdocimo.

(Once the person is well again, would you kindly inform the Parish Office)

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Cecil and Leah Bridge, Bessie and Doug Rae, Jack, Joy and Nicholas Doran, Terry and Phoebe Doran, Leo and Estelle Doran, Vincent and Ethel May Doran, Joe Doran, Alistair and Hilda Nielson, Des Nielson, and Barry and Berryl Ross.

Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

- (R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.
1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
 2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
 3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 8:35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord .

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.



News and Events

Forums on Latin in the Mass

Thank you to the approximately 40 people who participated in the forums on latin in the Mass last Saturday night and Sunday morning. The conversations were respectful and insightful, with an openness to different views. I now confirm the consensus that some Latin, such as the Sanctus (Holy, Holy), Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), or a Latin hymn will be sung on occasions. Together, may we appreciate the music we have, which is a combination of both old and new. Fr Tony.

Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Saturday 8 August

If you love our parish and Mary MacKillop, then celebrate her feast day with Holy Mass on Saturday, 8 August, at 9am, at St Mary Immaculate Church Charlestown. Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will follow. The First Rite of the Sacrament of Penance will conclude the morning.



LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish.

A.I Threats to the Vulnerable

Artificial intelligence (AI) can provide many benefits, but **AI can compromise vulnerable people**. AI vulnerable groups needing enhanced safeguarding include children, older adults, people with disabilities, people with low digital literacy, and those experiencing financial hardship.

One major concern is online scams. AI can create realistic fake emails, phone calls, and videos that trick people into sharing personal information or sending money. Older Australians are often targeted because they may be less familiar with recognising AI-generated scams.

AI can also increase unfair bias. Some organisations use AI systems to help make decisions about employment, loans, or housing. If these systems contain biased selection data, they may discriminate against certain groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disabilities, or people from culturally diverse backgrounds, thus reinforcing existing inequalities.

Privacy is another issue. AI systems collect and analyse large amounts of personal data. Vulnerable people may not fully understand how their information is being used or may have limited control over it.

Children are also at risk from AI-generated content, including misinformation, cyberbullying, and inappropriate material.

To enhance AI safeguarding, Australia needs strong privacy laws, ethical AI development, digital literacy education, and support services that help vulnerable people use technology safely.

MacKillop Parish Mission & Outreach Initiative

At our Parish Council Assembly on 26 October 2025, one of our shared priorities was to establish a Mission & Outreach initiative that supports families in need across our parish community through a partnership between MacKillop Parish and our parish schools.

We are excited to begin bringing this vision to life by creating a Meals Ministry, providing home-cooked meals to families in our parish schools who may be experiencing illness, hardship or challenging times.

Thanks to the generosity of a parish family, a new freezer will be donated and installed at the MacKillop Parish Centre to safely store meals for distribution. We are incredibly grateful for this wonderful act of generosity.

To help launch this initiative, I warmly invite anyone who would like to:

- prepare or donate meals,
- assist with coordinating the Meals Ministry,
- help organise a proposed Market Day Fundraiser to support this outreach, or
- simply learn more about how you can be involved, to join us for Morning Tea on:

Wednesday, 5 August, 10.00 am St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Charlestown

Whether you can contribute regularly or simply lend a helping hand from time to time, your support will make a meaningful difference to families in our community. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to email me: kathryn.hill@mn.catholic.edu.au.

Together, as a parish community, we can continue to live our faith through service, compassion and care for one another.

Warm regards,
Kathryn Hill

Catering for Alpha

The Alpha team would appreciate your support by donating a plate or bowl of food suitable for a group of approximately 50 people.

Suggestions include sandwiches, casseroles, lasagne, pastries, rice dishes, or even Domino's pizza. Desserts are also welcome, including slices, cakes and other sweet treats.

Please keep in mind that it doesn't have to be expensive - just nourishing. Even bread rolls or garlic bread would be greatly appreciated.

To help us spread the donations over the remaining eight weeks and avoid receiving multiple dishes of the same type, please contact me a few days beforehand to let me know what you would like to provide.

We would need to have the food dropped off at the parish function room no later than 6pm on the Wednesday.

You don't need to be attending Alpha to contribute. Providing food is a wonderful way to help others experience the hospitality of our faith community.

Thank you for your support. I can be contacted at any time.

Leanne Rankin 0409 440 545

News and Events cont.

Got Questions?

Explore life, faith,
and meaning.

Try Alpha.



Event details:

Running every Wednesday for 10
weeks starting 22nd

July 6:30pm

Address:

7 Milson St, Charlestown

Contact:

finn.todhunter@gmail.com

Register via QR code or via
sheet at entrance of church or
call 0475 292 028

CATECHISM 1001



FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

On Sundays at 2pm, in the Parish
Function room, we will be exploring the
mysteries of the faith using video lectures
from the Institute of Catholic Culture.

This is a 10 week, commitment-free
course. There is no registration required.

STARTS SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST.

Did you know?

Did you know that the Catholic Church dedicates month of August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary? As far as devotions go in the Church, this is one that is lesser known, yet it remains remarkably beautiful and relevant today.

St Bernadine of Siena, a 15th-century friar, is often considered the "Doctor of the Immaculate Heart", and he writes:

"And so, from [her] heart, as a furnace of divine ardor, the Blessed Virgin brought forth good words; that is, words of the most ardent love. For as from a vase full of the best wine only the best wine can be poured, or as from a very hot furnace nothing can come forth that is not burning hot, so indeed from the Mother of Christ could come no word except one of the highest and greatest divine love and ardor."

Consider, then, ways in which we may make our hearts like that heart of the Blessed Virgin, that we may pray the words of St Louis de Montfort to our Mother:

"That I would have no other heart but Thine to love God with a love as pure and ardent as Thine."

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Pray for us.

Further Reading:

The Glories of Mary, St Alphonsus Liguori

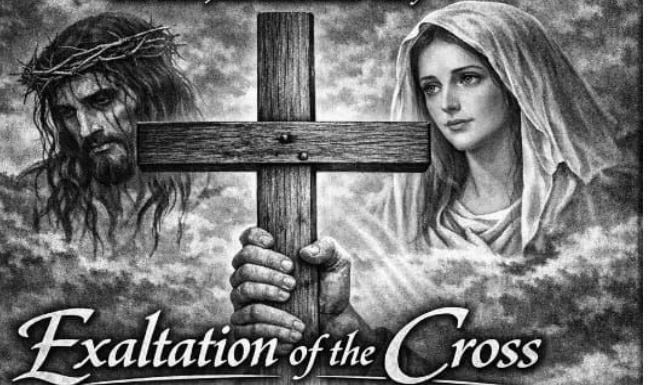
The Secret of Mary, St Louis de Montfort

The Secret of the Rosary, St Louis de Montfort

Sermon 9 on the Visitation, Saint Bernadine of Siena

HUNTER MENS CAMINO

March the Streets of Newcastle for
Our Lord Jesus and Mother Mary



SEPTEMBER 12 AT 10.30AM

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

Hunter St, Hamilton Newcastle



Contact: Jason C

+61 499 854 928

stfrancisofassisi ministry@gmail.com

Hymn Suggestion Box

For the whole of August, there will be a "Hymn Suggestion Box" placed by the main entrance of each church. We are looking to hear from you as to what hymns you are enjoying, perhaps some you might miss, and what you would like to hear more of.

We would like to note, however, that a number of factors go into hymn selection. As such, we cannot guarantee that every hymn suggested will be used in the Mass.

It is our hope that we can continue to improve our experience of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the singing and playing of music. Please chat to Joel if you have any questions.



Share your gifts to
make an impact
in the life of the
Church

News and Events cont.

CONGRATULATIONS MERYL MCCOSKER!

Congratulations to Meryl McCosker on winning the Biannual 2026 Diocesan Magdalene Award for Women.

A worthy recipient, Meryl regularly volunteers at the Stella Maris Seafarer Centre in Wickham and is a member of Cursillo in the diocese.

At the parish level, we see her involved in several ministries.

Thank you, Meryl, and the many women and men, who minister in our Church.





Mission & Evangelisation

HOW DOES FAITH GUIDE

THE JOY OF CHRISTIAN LIVING IN A MORALLY CRAZY WORLD

 GUEST SPEAKER: FR ANTHONY COLOMA

12PM, WEDNESDAY
26 AUGUST
DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE

RSVP TO
MN.SHOR.TN/CALLEDTOAUG26

FORMATION



Calledto

KNOW MORE

Calledto

CELEBRATE



Sing to the Lord a new song: sing to the Lord, all the earth
— PSALM 96:1

NOURISHMENT DAY FOR PASTORAL MUSICIANS

Step away from the weekly routine, renew your spirit, and connect with fellow musicians

SATURDAY
8 AUGUST 2026
10AM - 3PM

✦ SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

 mn.shor.tn/singtothelord

WORSHIP

FREE ENTRY

VINEYARDS CATHOLIC PARISHES PRESENTS

TESTIMONY & BIBLE STUDY

with Charbel Raish 

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST | 6:15pm - 9pm

"HOW ISLAM LED ME BACK TO CHRIST"

Charbel Raish was born into a Catholic home. But, in the last 6 years of school, he was influenced and challenged in his faith by Islamic friends. In his final year, he struggled to make a choice. He visited a mosque to give his life to Allah and Muhamed. But God wasn't done with him yet.

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST | 9:30am - 4pm

BIBLE IN A DAY

Bible In A Day reveals the "big picture" of Scripture by showing how the key narrative books tell the story of salvation from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church today.

Session 1: Foundations (Early World & Patriarchs)
Session 2: Freedom (Exodus, Desert, Promised Land)
Session 3: Kingdom (Kingdoms, Exile, Return)
Session 4: Fulfillment (Maccabees, Christ, Church)

Donations are welcomed to support the speaker.

Location: Kurri Parish Hall, 102 Barton Street, KURRI KURRI

For more info, contact Yvonne - 0450323206

REGISTER HERE



Dare to Dream!

What dreams do you have for our parish? How do you imagine it in the future? In other words, what is your vision for our parish?

Play your part and come together with each other to imagine our parish at its very best!

When: Sunday, 23 August
Time: 10:15am-10:45am - Shared Morning Tea
 10:45am-12:15pm - Sharing the vision
 12:15pm - Shared Lunch
Venue: Function Room Parish Pastoral Centre Charlestown
Facilitator: Ryan Gato

Due to its access to the Function Room, Mass at 9:00am that Sunday will be transferred from St Paul's Church Gateshead to St Mary Immaculate Church Charlestown.

The day before, the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm at Charlestown church will be celebrated as usual.

Please bring plates to share for the day. The Function Room will be open from 8:15am on the Sunday to drop-off food. Drinks will be provided.

Please register for the event by placing your name on the sheet at the main church entrance.

I look forward excitedly to our time together! Fr Tony.

Holy Mass, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, First Rite Reconciliation and Rosary

Celebrated on Saturdays (EXCEPT the first Saturday of the month) at St Mary Immaculate Church, Charlestown. Holy Mass 9:00am-9:30am, Adoration and Benediction 9:30am-10:00am, and First Rite Reconciliation 10:00am-10:30am. Rosary prayed on the third Saturday of the month 10:00am-10:30am. Eucharistic Adoration will occur one hour before each Mass.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal Peoples are Australia's first people and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land in which we live the joy of the Gospel and share it with the world. We are in the country of the Awabakal Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders, celebrate their continuing culture and the living memory of their ancestors.

Welcome to New Parishioners

If you are new to our Parish, and you desire to know more about it, please complete the 'Welcome Form' located at the back of the church and return it to the Parish Office in the envelope provided or contact the parish secretary at the Parish Office. **Please note, if needed, that there are 'Order of Mass' cards available at the entrance of the church to use during Holy Mass. These cards help you to understand the order of Holy Mass, as well as the responses for you to say. If you require any assistance, please see Fr Tony.**

Function Room Hire

The MacKillop Parish Pastoral Centre Function Room Charlestown is available for hire. It comes equipped with a kitchen, multi media equipment and plenty of room for activities. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

Mass Collections - Thank you

The First Collection is for the support of the priests around the diocese:

BSB: 066739
Account Number: 100018265
Account Name: CCF
Reference: Your Name

The Second Collection is for the support of the parish:

BSB: 066739
Account Number: 100012059
Account Name: CCF
Reference: Your Name

Mackillop Leadership Teams

Pastoral Council

Fr Anthony Potts
Kathryn Hill
Kaylene Maretich
Brett Donohoe
De-Anna Addicoat
Paul McAllister
Finnegan Todhunter
Paul Schwander
Lynette Blayney
Joel Edwards
Nathan O'Dea

Parish Pastoral Team

Fr Anthony Potts
Kathryn Hill
Paul McAllister
Joel Edwards
Finnegan Todhunter

Coordinator of Readers

Tony Bonaventura

Coordinator of Counters

Stephanie Wilson

Coordinator of Greeters

Anne Mullins

Coordinators of Children's Liturgy

Jo Franks
Jacqui Wilson

Finance Council

Fr Anthony Potts
John Wilson
Paul McAllister
Paul Schwander
Lynette Blayney
John Fitzgerald
Jackson Franks

Worship and Prayer Council

Fr Anthony Potts
Tui Smith
Majella Bonaventura
Anne Brogan
Maria Rego
Robert Copas
Joel Edwards
Finnegan Todhunter

Coordinator of Preparation of the Gifts

Norma Johnston

Coordinator of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass

Majella Bonaventura

Coordinator of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound

Max Bridges

Local School Contacts

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Charlestown

Principal: Mrs Kathryn Hill
Address: 32 Shelton Street, Charlestown NSW 2290
Phone / Fax: 02 4943 5414 / 02 4942 3218
Email: admin@charlestown.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.charlestown.catholic.edu.au

St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gateshead

Principal: Ms Kaylene Maretich
Address: 66 Felton Street, Gateshead NSW 2290
Phone / Fax: 02 4943 6369 / 02 4943 1414
Email: admin@gatesheadsp.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.gatesheadsp.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead

Principal: Mr Brett Donohoe
Address: 47-49 Pacific Highway, Gateshead NSW 2290
Phone / Fax: 02 4944 4800 / 02 4944 4827
Email: admin@gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au

PLACES TO CALL IF YOU NEED HELP

LIFELINE 13 11 14	BEYOND BLUE 1300 22 4636
1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732	HEADSPACE 1800 650 890
MINDSPOT 1800 61 44 34	KIDS HELPLINE 1800 55 1800
NATIONAL DEBT HELPLINE 1800 007 007	NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE 1800 020 080

