



25th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 20 SEPTEMBER 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
Website: mackillopcharlestown.org.au
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm
Address: 841 Hunter Street

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Phone/Fax: Newcastle West NSW 2302
 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

Complaints: [https://](https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/making-a-complaint/)

officeofsafeguarding.org.au/making-a-complaint/



Liturgical Times Year A/2 - within Ordinary Time 25

Monday, St Matthew, apostle, evangelist, Feast

Monday 21 September 9:00am Mass Charlestown

Tuesday, Ordinary Time 25

Tuesday 22 September 6:00pm Year 12 Graduation Mass Josephite Centre Gateshead

Wednesday, St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest, Memorial

Wednesday 23 September 9:30am Mass Charlestown

Thursday, Ordinary Time 25

Thursday 24 September 9:00am Mass Gateshead

Friday, Ordinary Time 25

Friday 25 September 9:00am Mass Gateshead

Saturday, Ordinary Time 25

Saturday 26 September 9:00am Mass Charlestown
 9:30am Adoration and Benediction Charlestown
 10:00am Reconciliation Charlestown

Sunday, 26th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 26 September 5:00pm Vigil Mass Charlestown
 Sunday 27 September 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, Ottilie 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, John (Giovani) Prosdociamo, Alma Edwards.
(Once the person is well again, would you kindly inform the Parish Office)

Recently Deceased: Merle Gorman.

Anniversaries: Danny Brogan, Narelle Chocholowski.

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. 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.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

See Acts of the Apostles 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



News and Events

Mackillop Parish Mission & Outreach – Meals Ministry

Our Meals Ministry supports families within our Parish schools who may be experiencing financial hardship, illness or hospitalisation, bereavement, unexpected family circumstances, or a particularly difficult time.

Through the generosity of our Parish community, home-cooked meals will be prepared and provided to families when they need a little extra care and support.

If you would like to prepare or donate meals or assist with this initiative, we would love to hear from you.

Next Meeting: 23rd September, 10:15am, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Charlestown.

Together, we can put our faith into action through service, compassion and care for our school families.

Warm regards,
Mission and Outreach Team.

BAPTISM

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of
Lyla Sue Marsh.

May the Holy Spirit guide her as she grows to become a disciple of Christ throughout her life.

Vocations Ministry: Turning Dreams into Action

A meeting to organise a club to promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood, the permanent diaconate, and the consecrated (religious) life in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Would you like to play a part in actively encouraging and supporting vocations? If so, I invite you to a meeting to consider establishing a Serra Club in our diocese. This local club would be a member of Serra International, a world-wide organisation, affirmed by the Holy See, which is committed to vocations ministry. This initiative has the support of our Bishop, Michael Kennedy. To learn more, please take a flyer at the church entrance.

The meeting will be on **Thursday, 24 September, at 7pm**, in the Function Room of St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub, 7 Milson Street, Charlestown.

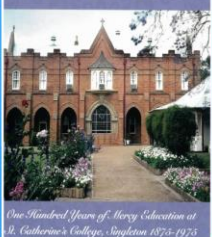
To RSVP and for further information, please contact the Director of Vocations:

Fr Anthony Potts

M: 0466 140 066

E: tony.potts@mn.catholic.org.au

LAUGHTER LOVE AND LOYALTY



One Hundred Years of Mercy Education at St Catherine's College, Singleton 1875-1975

Pam Como

On Sale Now!!

'Laughter Love and Loyalty'

One Hundred Years of Mercy Education at
St Catherine's College, Singleton
1875 - 1975

By Pam Como

"The writing of this book was born out of deep appreciation of the Mercy women I have been fortunate to know, the religious within the Order of the Sisters of Mercy and all the wonderful Mercy women they educated at St Catherine's." ... Pam Como

Purchase at St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton
or call 65789600 for details ...

VINEYARDS CATHOLIC PARISHES PRESENTS

MERCY & HOPE

Talks on suffering, the Saints, Divine Mercy and more...

WITH PAUL ELARDE & TINAH DE LUCA-TOHI

KURRI PARISH HALL,
102 BARTON STREET,
KURRI KURRI

FRI 23 OCTOBER: 6:15PM - 9PM
SAT 24 OCTOBER: 10AM - 4PM

23
OCT

TALK 1: Finding Meaning in Suffering – Life Crisis Spirituality

Sooner or later life presents something to us that we simply can not cope with. This talk reveals how, using our faith, we can survive the great suffering of a life crisis... for the better!

TALK 2: Two Saints of Mercy – Pope St. John Paul II & St. Faustina

Few saints have had such an enormous impact on the Church in modern times. Find out why Pope St John Paul II saw the message of Divine Mercy as THE special task of his Pontificate, and why along with St Faustina, they are literally transforming people's lives!

24
OCT

TALK 3: Why this Message of Divine Mercy is NEW!

What could be new about God's Mercy? Well, Jesus tells we have not comprehended His mercy. Hear what Jesus has said that reveal unimaginable gifts and mysteries of His Mercy! You won't want to miss this talk!

TESTIMONY by Tinah: "Keeping the Faith Through Hard Times"

Tinah is a teacher and mother of twelve children who knows first-hand how hard it is to 'keep the faith' during difficult times. In 2012 she was told that her perfectly healthy fifteen-year-old son Emmanuel had an incurable brain disease and for the next eighteen months, had to watch his slow decline. Her son Emmanuel inspired others as he leaned on his faith and trust in God to battle his illness. She has an amazing story to tell that will touch your heart and inspire your faith.

FREE
ENTRY

DIVINE MERCY STALL
AVAILABLE ON
SATURDAY - CASH
ONLY

SCAN HERE TO
REGISTER



MORE INFO
PROVIDED ON
REGISTRATION FORM.
CONTACT YVONNE -
0450323206

News and Events cont.

Formation Films – Heart of a Missionary: The Story of Pauline Jaricot

Pauline Marie Jaricot, foundress of The Society for the Propagation of Faith, was just 18 years old when she revolutionised the way our Church looks at the missions. This documentary film shares Pauline's story through expert interviews, beautiful dramatisations and footage from various mission sites around the world.

Join us, in conjunction with Catholic Mission, as we watch the film and share morning tea, lunch, and robust discussion. All are welcome!

When: Saturday 10 October 2026

Time: 11.00am-1.00pm

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre – Cnr Parry & Tudor Street Newcastle West

Cost: Free

Registration (Essential):

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/YW831j1Wjt> or call Mary on 0409033449.



World Youth Day 2027

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people (aged 16-35) held every three years with the Pope. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is leading a pilgrimage in July 2027 to the next one in South Korea with an extended retreat in Japan following.

Serious expressions of interest have now opened and can be logged on our webpage. We expect bookings to open in November with an \$800 deposit. Learn more -

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/church/world-youth-day-2027/>



October: the Month of the Rosary

The Rosary is one of the Church's most powerful prayers—a contemplative journey through the lives of Jesus and Mary that anchors our hearts in the Gospel.

This devotion holds a special place in Catholic history. On October 7, 1571, Christian forces won a pivotal victory at the Battle of Lepanto while the faithful across Europe united in praying the Rosary. In gratitude, Pope St. Pius V established the feast of Our Lady of Victory, known today as the **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**. It stands as a lasting reminder of the spiritual protection found through Mary's intercession.

To mark the Month of the Holy Rosary, **we will gather to pray the Rosary 30 minutes before every Mass throughout October**, temporarily replacing our usual pre-Mass Liturgy of the Hours.

Whether you pray the Rosary daily or haven't picked up your beads in years, you are warmly invited to arrive early, join your voice with our parish community, and place your petitions in Our Lady's care.

Schola Cantorum

Are you a man that enjoys singing? Starting on Monday the 21st of September, we will be running a weekly Schola Cantorum—a school of singing, focussed on embracing the traditional music of the Church, as we have been instructed to embrace by Pope Leo. It doesn't matter if you have no experience singing at all; all you need is a love of God and a love of worshipping Him. We will be meeting at St Mary Immaculate, Charlestown, at 7:30pm. If any women would like to start such a group, please come and talk to me. Thanks, Joel.



WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH TODAY?

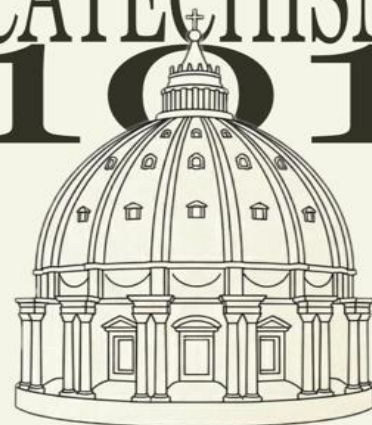
PANEL CONVERSATION
WITH BRENDON MANNIX,
JENIFER FERNANDES
AND ADAM FROST

12PM-1PM, TUESDAY
22 SEPTEMBER
DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE

FORMATION

CELEBRATE • KNOW • BE

CATECHISM 101



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.

Join us for Week 7, where we explore the who the Holy Spirit is.

News and Events cont.



Latest News From Our Safeguarding Promoters

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

Manosphere and Teenage Boys

The 'manosphere' is a collection of online communities and influencers that discuss masculinity, dating, relationships, and men's experiences. While some content can address genuine challenges faced by boys, certain parts of the manosphere promote harmful stereotypes and negative attitudes towards women.

Teenage boys are still developing their identities and understanding of relationships. Repeated exposure to messages that portray women as inferior, manipulative, or responsible for men's problems can influence how boys view girls and relationships. Some content also promotes the idea that being a 'real man' means being dominant, emotionally detached, wealthy, or sexually successful.

These messages can create unrealistic expectations and make boys feel pressured to hide vulnerability or prove their masculinity. In extreme cases, repeated exposure to misogynistic content may normalise disrespect, entitlement, or controlling behaviour towards girls.

It is important not to assume that every boy who encounters manosphere content will adopt these beliefs. Young people are influenced by many factors, including parents, friends, teachers, culture, and personal experiences.

Parents and schools can help by teaching boys media literacy, consent, empathy, healthy masculinity, and respectful relationships. Giving boys positive role models and safe spaces to discuss their emotions can also provide healthier alternatives to harmful online messages.

The Synodal Way: A journey into what the Global Synod now asks of us

The Synod on Synodality has been one of the most significant events in the life of the Catholic Church since Vatican II. For the first time, lay women and men joined bishops in the Synod Assembly with equal voting rights. Shortly afterwards, Pope Francis adopted the Final Document as part of the ordinary teaching of the Church.

What does this mean for us and for the future of our Diocese? Join us as we explore the key themes of the Final Document, the implementation phase now underway, and opportunities to become involved in local Synodal Teams. Please bring a plate to share and register your attendance.

LOCATION: St Stephen's Church,
Witt St, Tea Gardens
DATE: 24 September 2026
TIME: 10:00am to 11:30am
REGISTRATION LINK: <http://synod-doc-teagardens.Eventbrite.com.au/>



Little Nuns & Little Friars of Jesus & Mary

Our most recent meeting progressed in its planning for the visit of the friars and nuns from 2-10 November. I will inform you when the program is finalised. Fr Tony.

Caritas Australia's Women for the World Appeal

Safe childbirth shouldn't depend on luck. But in Papua New Guinea, many women still face pregnancy and childbirth without access to the care, equipment and support they need. Health centres are often under-resourced, and distance, cost and extreme weather can make reaching care a challenge. By supporting Caritas Australia's Women for the World appeal, you can help upgrade rural health centres, giving women a safer chance to bring new life into the world. Your gift today can help support safer pregnancies, safer births and healthier futures for mothers and babies.

Learn more or donate today at www.caritas.org.au/wftw.



Did you know?

Have you ever thought about why and how we do the Sign of Peace?

The Sign of Peace is an ancient practice in the Church, finding its theological root in what our Lord shares in St Matthew's Gospel: If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

In the Missal used on the altar, it states that "all offer one another a sign, in keeping with local customs, that expresses peace, communion, and charity". The Instruction for the Missal dictates that the local custom in Australia is to offer a handshake to those nearest to them, and that it is to be offered "in a sober manner".

A common misconception about the Sign of Peace is that we are offering our peace to each other. This isn't the case. Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, offers peace to us through the priest, and we express that peace to one another.

During the next Mass that you attend, when it comes to the Sign of Peace, take a moment to truly embrace in a sober manner the peace of Christ, communion with one another, and the charity we are called to share with all.

Diocesan Events Page on the Website

There are many wonderful, inspiring and engaging things happening across our Parishes and in the Diocese. Keep up to date and share these in your communities using the link and QR Code below in your bulletins.

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/>

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

