

# MacKillop Parish



St Mary Immaculate Church  
CHARLESTOWN

St Paul's Church  
GATESHEAD

St John Vianney Church  
REDHEAD



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026

### Church Contacts

**Parish Priest & Director of Vocations:** Rev Fr Anthony (Tony) Potts  
**Parish Secretaries:** Mrs Maryanne Barry  
 Ms Lisa Christoff  
**Baptism Preparation:** Mrs Donna Nichols  
**Co-Directors of Sacred Music:** Mr Robert Copas  
 Mr Joel Edwards  
**Co-Ordinator of Faith Formation:** Mr Joel Edwards

### 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  
 Newcastle West NSW 2302

### Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

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

#### Our Children and Vulnerable Adults

### Safeguarding

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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au)

For further information visit:

**Website:** [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)

**Complaints:** <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/making-a-complaint/>



### Liturgical Times - 5th week of Lent

#### Monday of the 5th week of Lent

Monday 23 March 9:00am Mass Charlestown

#### Tuesday of the 5th week of Lent

Tuesday 24 March 5:30pm Mass Charlestown

#### Wednesday The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD Solemnity

Wednesday 25 March 9:30am Mass Charlestown

#### Thursday of the 5th week of Lent

Thursday 26 March 9:00am Mass Charlestown

#### Friday of the 5th week of Lent

Friday 27 March 9:00am Mass Charlestown  
 6:00pm Stations of the Cross Charlestown

#### Saturday of the 5th week of Lent

Saturday 28 March 9:00am Mass Charlestown  
 9:30am Adoration and Benediction Charlestown  
 10:00am Rosary Charlestown  
 10:00am Reconciliation Charlestown

#### PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD Holy Week

Saturday 28 March 5:00pm Mass Charlestown

Sunday 29 March 9:00am Mass Charlestown

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

#### Please Pray For:

**Sick:** Jenny Phillips, Derek Orrin, Anne Standing, David Ellis, Lucy Bridge, Sarah Williams, Helen Davies, Timothy Brown, Peter John Evans, Jane Movicar, 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  
*(Once the person is well again, would you kindly inform the Parish Office)*

#### Recently Deceased:

**Anniversaries:** Danny Brogan, Max Smith, Kathleen Hoffman

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

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:** We strive to be a united community celebrating our faith in Jesus; inclusive and hospitable; compassionate and forgiving; committed to the life and mission of the parish.

# This Sunday's Scripture Readings

## First Reading

### Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the the prophet Ezekiel

*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

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

**The word of the Lord.**

## Responsorial Psalm

### Ps 129. R. v.7

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

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. (R.)

## Second Reading

### Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies .*

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

**The word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation

### See John 11:25. 26

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

## Gospel

### John 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the resurrection and the life .*

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?  
A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling  
because he has the light of this world to see by;  
but if he walks at night he stumbles,  
because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.  
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die.  
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

# This Sunday's Scripture Readings

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

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

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

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

## The Gospel of the Lord.

### 2026 Chrism Mass

Tuesday, 31 March, 7:00pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West. Refreshments afterwards in the Southern Cross Hall.

### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are celebrated on the Fridays of Lent at 6:00pm at St Mary Immaculate Church Charlestown. Spiritually walk with Jesus on his journey to the Cross this Lent.

### Rosters for 2026

Rosters are now completed until June. If there are any changes for the next set of rosters, please contact the Parish Office.

### BAPTISMS

This Sunday we celebrate the baptisms of  
Coco Pearl Smedley,  
Cooper Kevin & Blake John Brady.

May the Holy Spirit guide them as they grow to  
become disciples of Christ throughout their lives.



## Fifth Sunday of Lent 21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



### Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)  
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

### Mass Times

Given the significantly increased attendance at the 5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass, and the 9:00am Sunday Mass, there appears to be no need to reintroduce the 8:00am Sunday Mass. Numerous people have spoken to me in support of the change, with only 1 person questioning it. This was regarding the need perhaps for shift workers to have access to the earlier Mass of 8:00am on Sunday. Moving forward, with the advice of the Parish Pastoral Council, Mass times will continue to be the 5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Charlestown, and the 9:00am Sunday Mass at Gateshead. The first Sunday Mass at the reopened Gateshead church will be on Easter Sunday, 5 April, at 9:00am.

### Parish Pastoral Council Members

Parishioners: John Wilson, Paul McAllister, Nathan O'Dea, Lynette Blayney, Paul Schwander, and Joel Edwards.  
School Representatives: Kathryn Hill (Principal St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Charlestown), Kaylene Maretich (Principal St Paul's Catholic Primary School Gateshead), Brett Donohoe (Principal St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead), and De-Anna Addicoat (Ministry Coordinator St Mary's).  
Another 5 parishioners will be elected by the community by approximately the middle of this year.

### Resurrection Party

After the success of last year, the Resurrection Party will be held after the Easter Vigil on Saturday, 4 April. It will commence at approximately 9:00pm in the Function Room of St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub Charlestown. Please bring a plate to share and celebrate!

## Parish Prayer

Father,  
pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish;  
and grant us a new vision of your glory;  
a new experience of your power,  
a new faithfulness of your word,  
and a new consecration of your service,  
that your love may grow among us,  
and your kingdom come.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.



## 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

## 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

## 2026 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
2 April	3 April	3 April	4 April	5 April
7:00 PM	10:00 AM	3:00 PM	7:00 PM	9:00 AM
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	Stations of the Cross	Passion of the Lord	Easter Vigil Mass	Sunday of the Resurrection Mass
St Paul's Church, Gateshead	St Mary Immaculate Church, Charlestown	St Mary Immaculate Church, Charlestown	St Mary Immaculate Church, Charlestown	St Paul's Church, Gateshead

## MN KIDS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Program is open to children aged 6-12 years and will include team games, science experiments, bible stories and music.

Location: Diocesan Resource Centre (Corner of Tudor & Parry Street, Newcastle West)

Dates: 7 & 8 April 2026

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Child minding available from 8:30am-1:30pm

Cost: \$10 per child/per day. Lunch Included.

## Called & Gifted Discernment Process 2026 – Expressions of Interest Now Open!

After the success of the 2025 trial, we will again offer this life-changing discernment process, inviting you to discover your God-given charisms. Commencing in May, step forward in faith and help our parishes thrive through use of your gifts. Express your interest [here](#) or a sheet is available at the entrance.

## Reopening of St Paul's Church Gateshead

Following the replacement of the carpet, Gateshead church will be reopened for services on Holy Thursday, 2 April, for The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm.

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