



The Catholic Community of

MacKillop Parish

St Mary Immaculate Church
CHARLESTOWN

St Paul's Church
GATESHEAD

St John Vianney Church
REDHEAD



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A 21 DECEMBER 2025

Church Contacts

Parish Priest & Director of Vocations: Rev Fr Anthony (Tony) Potts
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Anton Perera
Parish Secretaries: Mrs Maryanne Barry
Mr Vimal Valiyaveetil
Miss Bridget Voigt
Promoter of Safeguarding: Mr Brad Fitzsimmons
Columbarium Manager: Mr Brad Fitzsimmons
Parish Venue Bookings: Mr Brad Fitzsimmons
0409 910 065
Sacramental Convenor: Miss Bridget Voigt
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: stmarythecross@mn.catholic.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

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

Liturgical Times - 4th Week of Advent

Monday 22 December	9:00am	Mass	Charlestown
Tuesday 23 December	5:30pm	Mass	Charlestown
Wednesday 24 December	9:30am	Mass	Charlestown

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), Solemnity with Octave

Wednesday 24 December	5:30pm	Christmas Vigil Charlestown Mass	
	7:00pm	Christmas Vigil Gateshead Mass	

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), Solemnity with Octave

Thursday 25 December	12:00am	Christmas Midnight Mass	Charlestown
	8:00am	Christmas Day Charlestown Mass	
	9:30am	Christmas Day Gateshead Mass	

St Stephen, the First Martyr, Feast

Friday 26 December	9:30am	Mass	Gateshead
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St John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast

Saturday 27 December	9:00am	Mass	Charlestown
	9:30am	Benediction	Charlestown
	10:00am	Reconciliation	Charlestown

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, FEAST

Saturday 27 December	6:00pm	Mass	Charlestown
Sunday 28 December	8:00am	Mass	Charlestown
	9:30am	Mass	Gateshead

NB: Adoration - 1 hour before 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, Tim Gearing, Peter John Evans, Jane Mcvicar, Pauline Williams, Emelia D'Aquisto, Margaret Wright, Emma Walsh, Ottilie Marie Sheens, Glory Ivanfy, Brad Fitzsimmons, Archie Huxley, Jodie Bell, Ernie Johnson, Celene Denholm Atkins, Douglas Wallace (Once the person is well again, would you kindly inform the Parish Office)

Recently Deceased: Derek Anslem Rego

Anniversaries: Ann Small

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

Isaiah 7: 10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23: 1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 1: 1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit

of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1: 23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son:

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1: 18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

News and Events

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

St Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal was launched on **22 November** and will continue until Christmas. We would be very grateful for any donations you can give, and all proceeds will be distributed directly to families and individuals in need in our Parish. Thank you for your generous support.

Christmas Masses Volunteers

Sheets are in the back of the church for you to volunteer to minister at the Christmas Masses this year. Please place your name and contact details beside the ministry you wish to undertake.

Latest News From Our Safeguarding Promoters

Christmas, a season steeped in traditions and festivity, serves as a poignant example of communities coming together to look after the vulnerable. It's a time when the spirit of generosity and compassion takes centre stage, reminding us of our shared responsibility to safeguard those in need.

Charitable initiatives during the Christmas season play a pivotal role in addressing the vulnerabilities that many individuals and families face, specifically those who may be struggling financially or emotionally. The festive atmosphere becomes a backdrop for acts of kindness, highlighting the true essence of Christ's message to love one another.

In Australia, there are over 60,000 registered charities which support many causes such as health, education, environment, animal welfare, religion, culture, reconciliation, human rights and the vulnerable. Charity volunteers number over 500,000.

It is these volunteers who become the unsung heroes of the Christmas season, dedicating their time and effort to connect with the marginalised through a spirit that transcends cultural and religious boundaries.

Individuals, too, play a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and support. Many take it upon themselves to reach out to neighbours, friends, or colleagues who may be experiencing hardship.

In a world that can sometimes feel divided, Christmas becomes a unifying force, a reminder that, regardless of our differences, we are all interconnected and responsible for each other's well-being. Through these collective efforts, Christmas becomes a beacon of hope, warmth, and inclusivity for all.

The Safeguarding Team extends best wishes to all parishioners and to our wider community for a happy and holy Christmas and reminds all to help and support where able.

Thanks from Cath Guilfoyle

I would like to say a special thank you to Fr Tony, Fr Anton and the Parishioners of MacKillop for your good wishes and gift on the conclusion of my service to the Parish in Music and Liturgy. It has been a privilege to be involved in the various ministries over the past 40 years and I have many fond memories from this time. May God's blessings continue to be upon you all. Thanks, Cath.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

**ST MARY OF THE CROSS PARISH HUB OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS FROM**

25 DECEMBER 2025 TIL

4 JANUARY 2026.

**YOU WILL STILL BE ABLE
TO CONTACT US VIA EMAIL.**

**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY
HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND
WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.**

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

MACKILLOP PARISH

Christmas Eve Mass	5:30pm	St Mary Immaculate Church, Charlestown
Christmas Eve Mass	7:00pm	St Paul's Church, Gateshead
Midnight Mass	12:00am	St Mary Immaculate Church, Charlestown
Christmas Day Mass	8:00am	St Mary Immaculate Church, Charlestown
Christmas Day Mass	9:30am	St Paul's Church, Gateshead



BAPTISMS

This Sunday we celebrate the baptisms of

River Blue Elkington and
Arlo Thomas Chandler.

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

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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: Mr Greg Cumming
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