

MacKillop Parish



St Mary Immaculate Church
CHARLESTOWN

St Paul's Church
GATESHEAD

St John Vianney Church
REDHEAD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 26 April 2026, WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Church Contacts

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

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 - within the 4th Week of Easter

Monday of the 4th Week of Easter

Monday 27 April 9:00am Mass Charlestown

Tuesday St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr - Memorial

Tuesday 28 April 9:00am Mass Charlestown

Wednesday St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor - Memorial

Wednesday 29 April 9:30am Mass Charlestown

Thursday of the 4th Week of Easter

Thursday 30 April 8:30am Mass Gateshead

Friday of the 4th Week of Easter

Friday 1 May 9:00am Mass Gateshead

Saturday St Athanasius, bishop, doctor - Memorial

Saturday 2 May 9:00am Mass Charlestown

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday 2 May 5:00pm Mass Charlestown

Sunday 3 May 9:00am Mass Gateshead

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

Recently Deceased: Lillian Smith

Anniversaries: Maria Chocholowski

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ .

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want .

Or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit . (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort . (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls .

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me .
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold .

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:
'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.' .

The Gospel of the Lord.

News and Events

BAPTISMS

This weekend we celebrate the baptism of
Eva Elizabeth Joyce Oxenbridge.

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



Invitation: St. Patrick's Singleton Women's Guild 60th Anniversary

Saturday 13 June 2026, 9:20am Mass – Followed by Anniversary Luncheon

The St Patrick's Parish Singleton invites parishioners and past members of the St Patrick's Women's Guild to attend a celebration marking 60 years of service to our community. Established in April 1966, the Guild has remained a steadfast pillar of parish life. We invite you to join us for Mass at 9.20am followed by an Anniversary Luncheon on Saturday 13th of June 2026.

RSVP Requirements: To assist with catering and logistics, please register your interest with the Singleton Parish Office by 30 May 2026 at singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au. Specific details regarding venue and cost will be circulated to all respondents soon.

VOCATIONS

Come and See RETREAT DAY

SATURDAY 16 MAY 2026

9AM - 3:30PM

HUNTER WETLANDS CENTRE, SHORTLAND

EXPLORE God's call on your life through reflections on Scripture, personal vocation story, and panel discussions.

LEARN practical tools for discernment from a nationally recognised presenter.

PRAY and reflect in a peaceful natural setting, including celebrating Mass with Bishop Michael Kennedy.

CONNECT with a range of speakers from different vocational backgrounds.



RSVP TO: mn.shor.tn/comeandseeday

 FIRE UP MINISTRIES



Behold Your Mother:

Explaining and Defending the 4 Marian Dogmas

FRIDAYS, 8TH - 29TH MAY

6:30 PM - HOLY ROSARY
7:00 PM - TALK

Mackillop Parish
7 Milson Street Charlestown



With
Simon Carrington



Scan to Register

NOT COMPULSORY
A suggested donation of \$20 per talk is appreciated and includes refreshments

Behold Your Mother:

Explaining and Defending the 4 Marian Dogmas

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary has been of great importance to the faith of Catholics since the beginning. However, for many Catholics, devotion to Mary and belief in the four Marian Dogmas can be a source of uncertainty and confusion. They simply do not understand why the Church teaches what She teaches about Mary.

Similarly, Marian beliefs have not just been source of uncertainty or confusion for Catholics, but for our Christian brothers and sisters also. Mary is perhaps one of the greatest obstacles to the Catholic faith for our Protestant brothers and sisters.

This course will seek to eliminate the uncertainty for Catholics and the objections that come from Protestants.

Behold Your Mother will explain and defend the four dogmas of Mary from a biblical and historical perspective.

This course will give clear reasons why Catholics believe Mary is:

- The Mother of God
- The Immaculate Conception
- Perpetual Virgin
- Assumed body and soul into heaven
- and much more!

 FIRE UP MINISTRIES

News and Events

Diocesan Cursillo 3-day Course

Do you wonder how to be more fully alive? If so, then you may like to consider attending our Cursillo 3-day course. The annual Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle 2025 Cursillo 3 days will be held from 11-14th June at Rathmines with the theme "Joy of the Lord is my strength". Cursillo is a short course which will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on gospel values and will be asking each participant "How can I BE Christian in my many everyday environments?" Learn More: [Diocesan Cursillo 3-Day Course - Catholic Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle](#)

ALIVE Catholic Youth Launch

Pentecost Sunday | 24 May, 2-5pm | The Factory Theatre, Trinity College Adamstown

Witness how the Holy Spirit is moving in the Diocese of Maitland -Newcastle as we launch ALIVE - a dynamic and exciting event that will showcase a new diocesan identity for young people that seeks to draw them into a personal relationship with Christ they feel confident to share with others. Music will be led by a nationally acclaimed worship team and a number of exciting plans will be announced alongside some good news stories of where ALIVE is already taking shape in schools and parishes. Please visit the Diocesan events page to secure your free seat. All ages are welcome - [Events - Catholic Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle](#).

Mission & Evangelisation Date Claimers

Further details available on the [Diocesan Website](#) or mn.catholic.org.au.

- **Chrism Mass:** 31 March, 6:30pm - Sacred Heart Cathedral
- **ALIVE Catholic Youth Launch:** 17 May, Trinity College, Adamstown
- **Magdalene Awards:** 26 July, 9:30am - Sacred Heart Cathedral
- **ALIVE Young Adults Retreat:** 17 -19 July, Forster
- **Travelling Exhibition of the Saint Carlo Acutis Pilgrim Relic:** 8-14 September
- **ALIVE Youth Retreat:** 25-27 September, Lake Macquarie
- **Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit:** 1-3 October, St Gregory's Campbelltown

Come and have a chat

During the week of Tuesday, 12 May until Friday, 15 May, you are welcome to make a time to share with me anything you like. It may be to do with what you consider blessings or difficulties about yourself, your family, other relationships, your work, religion, your spiritual life, politics, the parish, or anything else. While you are always welcome to speak to me, I thought I would make a special time for you to do so. I can be contacted on 0466 140 066. With thanks, Fr Tony.

Worldviews and Ways of Life in Australia - Research

Australian National University (ANU) researchers are exploring how perceptions and ways of thinking (i.e. worldviews) relate to experiences and ways of living (i.e. participation and inclusion) in Australia. They are seeking respondents from any and all adult Australian citizens and permanent residents living in Australia, including Australia's broad Christian community, to be well represented for their online anonymous 15-20 min survey.

You can be represented in this meaningful research by completing the survey and also forwarding it to any others who may be interested, with \$100 vouchers to be won if you complete it. Access the survey [here](#) in English or Tiếng Việt or ਪੰਜਾਬੀ or 简体中文 or 繁體中文 or العربية. Any questions can be emailed to the researchers (u7870746@anu.edu.au).



Australian National University



ANU Academic Research Survey:
Worldviews and ways of life in Australia

Adult Citizens & PRs | Anonymous | 15-20 mins | \$100 gift vouchers to win
Approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2025/0589).
Contact researchers_u7870746@anu.edu.au

https://anu.a1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2A0d9q9lyv9VQ
English - Tiếng Việt - ਪੰਜਾਬੀ - 简体中文 - 繁體中文 - العربية

Called & Gifted - Registrations closing soon

What if God has placed gifts within you that are still waiting to be discovered? Over the past year, people across our Diocese stepped into the Called & Gifted Discernment Process and discovered something powerful, a deeper awareness of their charisms, a renewed sense of purpose, and new confidence in how they live and share their faith. "It was a life-giving experience that helped me see my faith and my gifts in a completely new way ... Called & Gifted opened my eyes to possibilities I hadn't considered before ... This journey is too valuable to keep to a small group, I hope many more people will have the opportunity to experience it." This is not simply a program. It is a process of prayer, reflection and discernment that helps you recognise how the Holy Spirit is already working through your life, often in ways you may not yet fully see or name. Learn More: [Expressions of Interest for the 2026 Called & Gifted Program - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#)

Liturgies from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday

A sincere thanks to you as a community for participating so well in the liturgies from Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord to Sunday of the Resurrection. Thanks to those ministers who worked so hard behind the scenes in the weeks and months ahead, those on the day, to the Proclaimers of the Word, altar servers, the musician and singers. It was stunning! Attendances across this period were approximately 1,150 people, an increase of at least 200 people on last year. Fr Tony.

News and Events

Formation Film

Jesus Revolution – A film based on the true story of a 1960's teenager, a pastor and a Christian hippie.
Saturday 02 May 2026, 11:00am – 1:00pm, Diocesan Resource Centre – Cnr Parry & Tudor St Newcastle
Join us as we watch the film and share morning tea, lunch, and robust discussion. All are welcome! REGISTRATION (Essential): <https://forms.office.com/r/KYdg9Q3DTq> or call Mary on 0409 033 449.

Prayer for Safe Passage

Please keep Seafarers in your prayers as they try and navigate through the shipping lanes of the world heading of our ports here in Australia in this troubled time with the war in the Middle East. **Join us for Mass at the Stella Maris, Mission to Seafarers Centre, 96 Hannell Street Wickham, 5.30pm Thursday 30th April. All are welcome.**

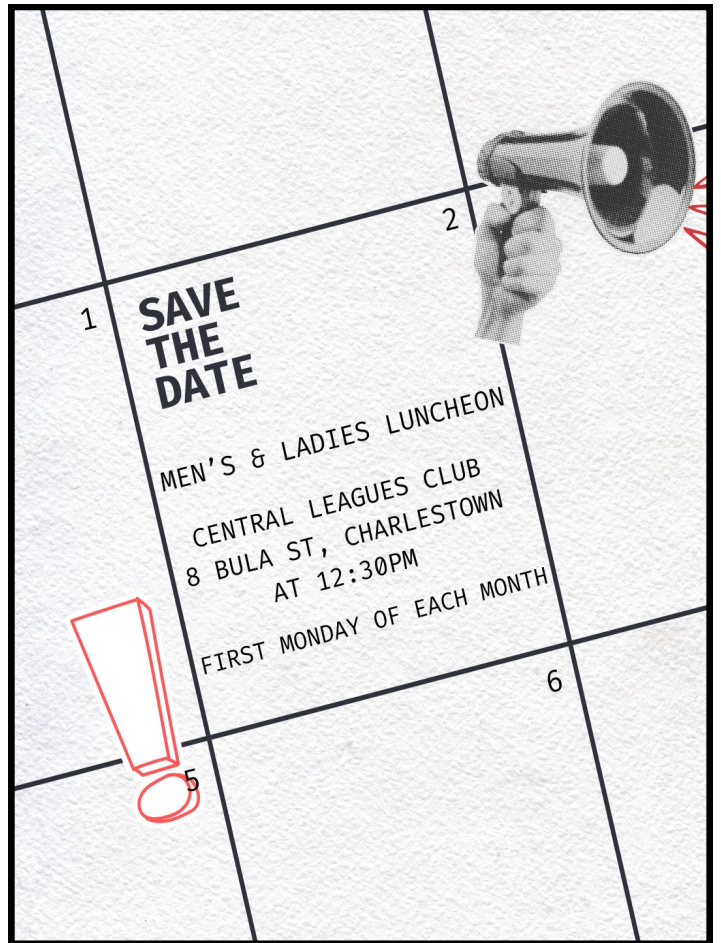
Formation and Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

This will be held on Tuesday, 12 May, at 6:15pm, at St Mary Immaculate Church Charlestown. I look forward to spending time with you to affirm and refine your ministry. With thanks, Fr Tony.

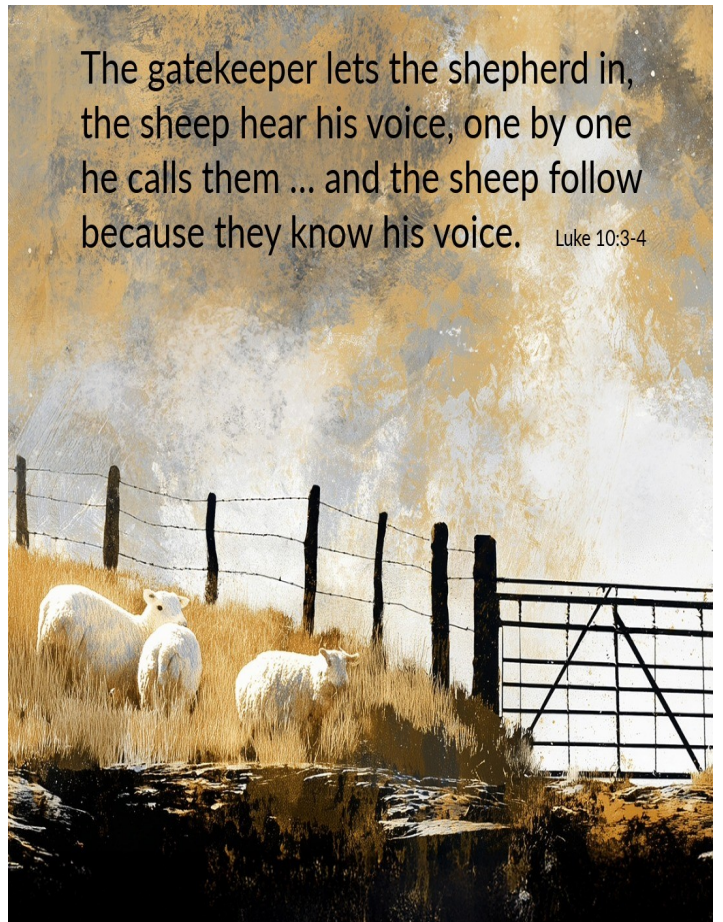


Mackillop Young Adults

MacKillop Young Adults is a lively community of faithful Catholics aged 18-35 that meet weekly after Sunday Mass. We strive to grow in relationship with Christ and one another in fellowship, prayer, and formation.



The gatekeeper lets the shepherd in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls them ... and the sheep follow because they know his voice. Luke 10:3-4





ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SPIRITUALITY AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COUNTRY: WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

02
MAY

JOIN US ON MAY 2, 2026

The Listen to the Heart Moving Forward Team invites you to join us to listen to, and ask questions of, Fr Darryl and Aunty Wanda as we continue the journey to increase our knowledge and understanding of the deep spirituality of First Nations Peoples, connection to Country, and relationship with our Faith.



FR DARRYL MACKIE

Fr Darryl Mackie is a proud Wiradjuri man. He is currently Parish Priest of the Lakeside Pastoral Region.



AUNTY WANDA SMITH

Aunty Wanda Smith is a Ngurabul Elder, and a Gomerol and Torres Strait Islander woman. She is the Aboriginal Education Worker for St James Primary School Muswellbrook and St Joseph's Catholic College Aberdeen.

EVENT INFORMATION

Location: Wonnarua Country

Therry Centre, Cnr New England Highway & King Street, EAST MAITLAND

Time: 8:30am - 12:30pm

RSVP: Wednesday 29th April

Register: Via QR code or helanmbelcher@bjepond.com

Cost: Donation payable on day

Meals: Morning tea provided, BYO lunch



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



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



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