



St Mary Immaculate Church
CHARLESTOWN

St Paul's Church
GATESHEAD

St John Vianney Church
REDHEAD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 25 JANUARY 2026

Church Contacts

Parish Priest &
Director of Vocations: Rev Fr Anthony (Tony) Potts
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Anton Perera
Parish Secretary: Mrs Maryanne Barry
Baptism Preparation: Mrs Donna Nichols
Co-Directors of Sacred Music: Mr Robert Copas
Co-Ordinator of Faith Formation: Mr Joel Edwards

Liturgical Times - Ordinary Time Week 2

Australia Day	Monday 26 January	9:00am	Mass	Charlestown
Tuesday 27 January		9:00am	Mass	Josephite Centre Gateshead
St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor, Memorial				
Wednesday 28 January	9:30am	Mass		Charlestown
Thursday 29 January	9:00am	Mass		Gateshead
Friday 30 January	9:00am	Mass		Gateshead
St John Bosco, Priest, Memorial				
Saturday 31 January	9:00am	Mass		Charlestown
	9:30am	Benediction	Charlestown	
	10:00am	Reconciliation	Charlestown	

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A WORD OF GOD SUNDAY

Saturday 31 January	5:00pm	Mass	Charlestown
Sunday 01 February	9:00am	Mass	Charlestown

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

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](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)

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

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, Brad Fitzsimmons, Archie Huxley, Jodie Bell, Mark Evans, Peter Corcoran, Gary Williams, Katrina 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: John Bernard Duggan, Caitlin Potts, Cliff Rouse, Pauline Donohoe, Eric Donohoe, Leslie Williams, Adelle Grainger

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 8:23 – 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase,
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **(R.)**
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious

differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

News and Events

Australia Day Mass 26 January 2026

Australia Day Mass will be celebrated on **Monday, 26 January 2026, at 9:00am**, at St Mary Immaculate Church Charlestown. An Aussie morning tea will follow in the Function Room at St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub, Charlestown. Please bring a plate to share. Thanks, Fr Tony.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) 2026

Think of someone you know. The Church opens her doors to anyone who is searching, questioning, or longing for more. If that's you—or someone you love—please come along.

The first session is on **Wednesday, 4 February, at 6:30pm** in the Function Room at St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub (7 Milson Street Charlestown).

For more details, please contact Joel Edwards on 0481 849 989, joeliscatholic@gmail.com or scan the QR code.



Appointment of Fr Anton Perera

Bishop Michael has appointed Fr Anton as Assistant Priest of the Parishes of Raymond Terrace and Myall Coast, effective **17 February**. Fr Anton will be the Principal Celebrant at both Masses on **Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 February**. A farewell morning tea will be held for Fr Anton after the **9:00am** Mass at Charlestown on **Sunday, 15 February**, in the Function Room of St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub Charlestown. If you are able, please bring a plate to share. You are welcome to make a financial gift to Fr Anton by placing money in a marked envelope saying, "Fr Anton's Farewell Gift", and placing it on either collection at Sunday Masses. I am grateful for having spent two (2) years with Fr Anton and accompanying him on his journey to priestly ordination. I will miss him. Thank you, Fr Tony.

Anointing Mass on World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Our first Anointing Mass for the year will be held on the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of Prayer for the Sick, on **Wednesday, 11 February, at 9:30am**, at St Mary Immaculate Church Charlestown. Morning tea will follow in the Function Room of St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub Charlestown. For those who are able, please bring a plate to share. Please spread the word and invite those who don't normally come to Mass to receive healing in mind, body, and spirit. Thanks, Fr Tony.

Update in Parish Office Email Address

The email address for communicating with MacKillop Parish Office has been updated back to the old email address which is mackillop.parish@mn.catholic.org.au

New Flooring at Gateshead church

As you may know, the carpet at Gateshead church is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. It will be replaced with carpet squares in the body of the church and polished boards on the sanctuary. The wood needs weeks to acclimatize and will require the church being closed for at least one (1) month. It is hoped that work will commence shortly after Australia Day. During this time, all Masses will be celebrated at Charlestown church. On Sundays, however, there will only be one (1) Sunday Mass, and this will be celebrated at Charlestown church at 9:00am. This will be used to trial two (2) Masses being celebrated in the parish over a weekend, rather than three (3). It could be argued that three (3) Masses a weekend for an overall attendance of approximately two hundred (200) people is one (1) Mass too many. Two (2) Masses with fuller churches would be a better experience. If it is supported, then there will only be one (1) Sunday Mass permanently in the parish and this will be celebrated at Gateshead church at 9:00am. Therefore, the Mass at Charlestown church at 8:00am will no longer occur. This was discussed at the Parish Assembly. The Saturday Vigil Mass will still occur, but as decided at the Parish Assembly it will be celebrated at the new time of 5:00pm. This will be a permanent change. Trusting in your understanding, Fr Tony.

LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS 25 JANUARY 2026



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

Here are key ways to **safeguard children returning to or commencing school** - focusing on *physical safety, travel, and online protection*:

- Safe travel to and from school** - Plan and practise the route with your child. Always use pedestrian crossings, hold hands with younger children, and model safe road behaviour. *Meet children on the school side of the road and don't call them across traffic. Check pick-up/drop-off routines with teachers to avoid confusion.*
- Communication and awareness** - Talk with your child about *road safety, staying with friends*, and telling you if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know who will meet them after school and where.
- Online and social media safety** - Parents should be cautious about *posting back-to-school photos*. Avoid sharing identifiable information like full names, school logos, locations or ages, and tighten privacy settings to *trusted contacts only*.
- Engage with school safety policies** - Stay in touch with teachers and administrators about safety plans, emergency drills, and behaviour policies. Open communication helps address issues like bullying or harassment early.

A calm, informed approach helps children feel secure and supports a safer start to the school 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.



Compassio Lenten Program 2026 Book

Compassio is a pocket-sized book published by the Diocese of Wollongong offering rich insights that invite, challenge, and console—ideal for both individual prayer and group study. Whether journeying alone or in community, *Compassio* provides the tools to rediscover hope, solidarity, and the healing love of Christ.

Anyone who wishes to purchase a copy through the parish office may write their name on the list at the entrance of the church by **Sunday, 8 February**. Books are \$6 each.



Mr Brad Fitzsimmons

As many of you know, Brad has not enjoyed good health for some time. Given this, Brad has decided to step aside from his various roles in the parish. I would like to sincerely thank Brad for his constant friendly and calm presence and his loyal commitment to the parish for many years in so many ways. I am sure I speak for you in expressing our gratitude to him and assuring him of our prayerful support. Fr Tony.

Looking to connect with our Parish?

Join MacKillop Parish family by scanning the QR code.



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: 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

Disclaimer: Unless otherwise stated, advertisements placed in this newsletter are by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the service provided and makes no representation about such matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements.