

Saint Michael's Catholic Parish



12 Sproule Street - Nelson Bay 2315
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Email: stmichaelsnb@mn.catholic.org.au
www.nelsonbaycatholicchurch.com
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle



First Sunday of Lent Year C 9 March 2025

We acknowledge the Worimi people - the traditional custodians of this land.
Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Reconciliation:

Saturday
4.00pm - 4.45 pm

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass: 8.30 am

Exposition and
Adoration

One Hour before Mass

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 5.00 pm

Wednesday 9.15 am

Thursday NO MASS

Friday NO MASS

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr. Anthony Nguyen
Phone: 0420 401 025

PARISH DEACON:

Dcn Gerard McCarthy

PARISH SECRETARY:

Mrs Dianne Maricic
Parish Office Hours
9.30 am to 3.00 pm
Wednesday to Friday
Phone: 0401 233 650

ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Ms Helen Bourne
Office: 4981 1111

COMMUNITY SAFETY AT OUR MASSES

Please be assured that we are doing all we can to ensure our gatherings are as safe as possible:

- Please do not enter the church or other parish buildings if you are unwell. This includes meetings/gatherings.
- No density limits apply in Places of Worship but please allow space between people where possible.
- Please continue to hand sanitise.
- HOLY WATER is now available and is changed regularly.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Communion host can be received in the hand, and on the tongue with care. Since the latter is deemed high risk, please proceed to the Priest or Deacon only and at the end of the line.

ANOINTING MASS

The next Anointing Mass will be celebrated on first Friday of each month.

STATION OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be said at 8.45am Friday (prior to Mass) during Lent.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

Please see Fr. Anthony or Deacon Gerard before mass if you are coeliac or gluten intolerant.

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY MASS ON THURSDAY, 13TH AND FRIDAY, 14TH MARCH

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PRAYER

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our protection against
the wickedness and
snares of the devil;
May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray;
And do thou,
O Prince of the
Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan
and all evil spirits
who roam the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

MEDITATION GROUP



Christian meditation is the process in which we take time to become aware of our infinite potential in the context of the Christ event. Christian meditation is on every Friday at 10.00 am in the multi-purpose room at the back of the Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

"Meditation is about a deep conversion of heart".

**ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - NELSON BAY
PROMOTES SAFEGUARDING, WHICH INVOLVES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
PROACTIVE, COMMON SENSE AND PRACTICAL IDEAS THAT ENSURE THE SAFETY
OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY**



Project Compassion Sunday
8th and 9th of March 2025



Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-fah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY

The Sacramental Journey to prepare children to receive the Sacraments of **Reconciliation, Confirmation and Communion** (for those who are Baptised Catholic) will commence with an information evening for parents at St Michael's Catholic Church on Tuesday, 11 March 2025 at 5.30pm. Parents are required to attend and register their child/children at this meeting.

POTENTIAL CATHEDRAL CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is currently facing a space constraint in the temporary crypt located under the altar in St. John the Baptist Oratory. You are invited to attend a briefing and feedback session regarding the Bishops Crypt on 11 March at 10am or 6pm in the Victor Peters Suite at Newcastle West. For more information please go to

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/news/potential-cathedral-changes-being-considered/>

ST MICHAEL'S LENTEN GROUP

Fr Anthony will facilitate a Lenten Group gathering in St Michael's Church during Lent. The group will meet on the Wednesdays of Lent (from 5th March) in the multipurpose room. Each meeting will commence after morning mass.

2025 LENTEN PROGRAM RESOURCES

The resources for the 2025 Lenten Program have now arrived from the Diocese of Wollongong and are available for collection at the Piety Store this weekend. Each book costs \$5.00 - can you please pay at piety store. We have extra books in supply for those who have not pre-ordered.

PRAYERS PLEASE

In your mercy, please pray for those who have died recently **Chris Norman, Steve Kielb, Sarina Locantro, Gaudencio 'Dennis' Hurtado, Galen Pobre, Mildred Qutoriano, Angelica Ganub** and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: **Medrina Panaligan, Rufina, Faustino, Alejandro and Claudio Bandilla, Keith Staples, Vinolia Pascin, Loreta and Juan Brigoli** and for the sick in our parish **Clemente Quinajon, David Berkeley, Artemia Sheather, Mario Locantro, Anna Tan, Eduardo Vicedo, Jason Young, Johny and Alexander Vella, David Campbell and Peter Campbell.**

Masses will be offered on request. Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

Names on the Sick List will be removed after 4 weeks unless otherwise advised.

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NEXT SUNDAY

**2nd Sunday of Lent
Year C**

First Reading

Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my light and
my salvation.

Second Reading

Philippians 3-7 - 4:1

Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

Bulletin Notices:

New updates

1. Blessed Carlo Acutis Exhibition

It is with great excitement that Bishop Michael Kennedy has organised an international exhibition of Blessed Carlo Acutis to visit our Diocese this week.

It is set up in the Toohey and Dwyer Rooms at 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West and will remain there until 1pm Friday 7 March. The exhibition can accommodate groups of up to 20 people at a time and will be open from 9am - 5pm daily (except Friday). On Tuesday and Thursday the exhibition will be open for an extended period until 8pm.

Follow the link below to book for your group. Individuals can come at any time whilst the exhibition is open.

<https://forms.office.com/r/XEmSJxQ88R>

2. Jubilee Art Exhibition – Saturday 31 May

Members of the Diocesan community are invited to create an artwork focusing on the theme - "Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5). Winning entries will travel across the Diocese in a travelling exhibition during the Jubilee Year.

Entry Categories: A. Primary School B. High School C. Adult

Prize for each Category: 1st Prize - \$500, 2nd Prize - \$250, 3rd Prize - \$100

Key dates:

- Friday 9 May - Registration of artworks Jubilee Art Exhibition
- Saturday 31 May - Exhibition Opening: 2pm-4pm, Veritas Centre, San Clement Catholic College, Mayfield

Requirements:

Artworks created on A4 paper (only) leaving a 2cm boarder for framing. Any medium suitable for a 2D artwork on paper can be used. Artist Statement – maximum 250 words – describe how your artwork connects with the theme, 'Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (Rom 5:1-2.5)'.
Enquires: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

3. Meditation Retreat Morning

You are invited to come along to the Diocesan Resource Centre from 9.30am to 12pm on Saturday 29 March for a Meditation Retreat Morning. The cost is \$10, and morning tea will be provided. Email annecuskelly@hotmail.com for more information.

Opportunities included in previous notices

4. Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025

Join us on pilgrimage this Jubilee Year with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we visit the biblical sites and spiritual heights of Greece, Turkey and Italy from 25 September -12 October. Scan the QR code or visit www.mn.catholic.org.au and click the *2025 Jubilee Year Information* tile for more information, the application form, and costings.



5. Diocesan Resource Centre March events

Address: 12 Tudor Street – Newcastle West (Cnr Parry Street)

Friday 7 March – Formation Friday – Indulgences – 1pm

Meet with other community members via Zoom or in the Diocesan Resource Centre Library for a chance to reflect and discuss seasons, moments and mysteries of the church and our faith. Register using QR code or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au



Friday 28 March – Human Library – 10am

Our “Human Books” will discuss Pilgrimage, the good and bad, what they learned and how it made them feel. Showing images and answering questions, you will be immersed in Pilgrimage. Register using QR code or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au



6. Rite of Election – Sunday 9 March

The Rite of Election on Sunday 9 March 2025 is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic within this Jubilee Year of Hope. It starts at 2.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to E.mission@mn.catholic.org.au. Enquiries to Fiona P 0408 895 951.

7. Art and Spirituality Days

We will be hosting two Art and Spirituality Days in 2025 on Friday 4 April and Friday 12 September at the Kilaben Bay Community Centre (140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay). Participants will engage in art-making experiences that will nourish their faith. **Cost:** \$25. BYO lunch. Morning tea will be provided.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1235249708129>

For further information contact Rose McAllister on rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

8. Lenten Reflection – Journey of Hope

Lent is often portrayed as a journey from one point in time to another, this time allows us to deeply reflect internally so our external actions imitate the resurrection and living God. Lent is a penitential period when we attempt to develop an awareness of sin and our need for penance and forgiveness. This journey assists us in our transformation as we move from one state to another, a state that is renewed by hope in the Paschal Mystery, so we truly understand why the risen Jesus matters.

As we enter Lent during the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, let us use this time as an opportunity to reflect and seek forgiveness so we can experience the unlimited nature of God's Mercy. You are invited to use this resource to reveal the mystery of God each week through the scriptures, faith sharing, and consider how we are called to be constant companions in the journey of hope.

To access the resource, go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/7345/0007121-dio-2024-lenten-program-web-v2.pdf>

9. Register Your Interest for the 2025 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Tri-Annual Assembly

Every three years, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) hosts a National Tri-Annual Assembly. In 2025, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is honoured to host this gathering on the lands of the Wonnarua people at Rydges Hunter Valley from Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October 2025.

With the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," inspired by Pope Francis' Jubilee Year, this Assembly promises to be a meaningful event. The success of the assembly relies heavily on the Host Diocese and our generosity and/or attendance.

Complete this form to register your interest in attending or volunteering:

<https://forms.office.com/r/5XDUHy3Vrc>

Enquiries can be sent to mission@mn.catholic.org.au

Ongoing opportunities

1. Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream

Useful Links

Here are some useful links and resources that may be new to you. Feel free to share with parish contacts or publish in parish bulletins (as appropriate):

- [Liturgy page](#) – regularly updated
- [Faith formation page](#) – regularly updated
- [MNnews.today](#) – Diocesan News Service
- [DoMN Library](#)
- [Subscribe to DioUpdate eNewsletter](#)
- [Aurora Magazine articles online](#)



MAR
2025

Status Report:

Review of the Pastoral Ministries and
Religious Education & Spirituality teams

Status Report:

Review of the Pastoral Ministries and Religious Education & Spirituality teams

4 March 2025

To the People of the Diocese, Clergy, Parishes, All staff of the Diocese, its Schools and Agencies

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ.

In October 2024 I wrote to provide you with an update concerning the progress made regarding the implementation of recommendations from the Review of the Pastoral Ministries and Religious Education & Spirituality teams outlined in Dr Dan White's report and the Implementation committee report.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a further update on the work of our Diocesan teams. A high-level summary of this progress across the key areas of governance, strategic planning and collaboration, evangelisation and community engagement, and religious education and Catholic identity is reported over page.

The Assistant Head of Catholic Schools Religious Education and Spirituality, the Director of Mission and Evangelisation, and the Chancellor have all developed and advanced plans and processes for the implementation of the changes recommended in the review. Given this, I have thanked the Implementation Committee chaired by the Vicar General Father Matthew Muller and indicated their ongoing oversight is no longer necessary.

I would like to also extend my thanks to the Mission and Evangelisation (formerly the Pastoral Ministries) and Religious Education & Spirituality teams for their professionalism and commitment through this process.

Important work is also under way to enable a reconstitution of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Council will then be tasked with finalising the Diocesan Synod and developing a Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

I thank you all for your engagement with this important work as we continue to shape our mission and evangelisation efforts, guiding others to encounter Jesus Christ and nurture a deeper relationship with Him within the Church community.

Yours in Christ



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

A. Governance:

- The Diocesan Chancellor and Head of Governance have further refined a proposed new governance framework. The Bishop has approved the framework. Work is now commencing on the details of roles and responsibilities. Once that task is done new statutes will be drawn up, and then new members recruited.
- Draft statutes for the Diocesan Pastoral Council are progressing and undergoing further development. It is planned to have all statutes for governing bodies in draft form by the end of March.

B. Strategic Planning & Collaboration:

- A review and restructure of the Mission & Evangelisation team has been completed. The name of the team has changed from Pastoral Ministries to Mission & Evangelisation to reflect its future focus and the team re-positioned to take the form of three distinct, but collaborative groups being: Mission & Evangelisation Partners, Chaplains, and Directorate. This structure is intended to support the Bishop's articulation for parishes to:

Thrive in liturgy, worship and prayer:

Engage in genuine faith formation: and

Seek opportunities for mission in word and deeds.

- The Mission & Evangelisation and Religious Education & Spirituality teams have taken tangible action strengthening their collegial relationship and working collaboratively on supporting major Diocesan goals and initiatives, especially in the areas of formation, supporting the mission of parish communities and strengthening Catholic identity and mission. An example of this is the planned initiatives associated with the Jubilee of Hope with more to follow in 2025.

C. Evangelisation & Community Engagement:

- Appointments have been made and the trial of the Family Engagement Co-ordinator and the Priest Chaplain roles in the Maitland parishes has commenced.
- Plans are advanced for the Mission & Evangelisation team to consult with Parish Priests and their pastoral advisers regarding the development of Diocesan evangelisation and mission goals and strategies.

- A dedicated resource devoted to Youth Ministry has been included in the Mission & Evangelisation team to work collaboratively with parish and school communities in recognition of youth ministry being an important Diocesan priority.
- Strategic plans and a re-commitment to the support and provision of Chaplaincy services has been made following a review, which looked at the nature, scope and ongoing challenges that are present in the current provision of these services.
- The Pastoral Placement program has been rested for 12 months whilst planning for the youth ministry in the Diocese is underway.

D. Religious Education & Catholic Identity:

- The Mission & Evangelisation and Religious Education & Spirituality teams have been working collaboratively in conjunction with other Diocesan teams on the development of a program of induction, formation, and ongoing spiritual and pastoral support for Diocesan teams, agencies, and governing bodies.
- The Religious Education & Spirituality team have increased their team resources and capabilities to deliver valued support and services in the areas of formation and curriculum development.
- The Religious Education & Spirituality team have introduced new initiatives that aim to build the capacity of future faith leaders in schools, as well as provide more affordable and flexible opportunities for teaching staff to gain their required Accreditation to Work, Teach and Lead.

The Implementation Committee and Dr Dan White's report can be found at the following:

[Implementation Committee Report \(May 2024\)](#)

[Dr Dan White Report – Executive Summary & Recommendations \(Nov 2023\)](#)