



St. Brigid's Church
Raymond Terrace



St. Christopher's Oratory
Medowie



Our Lady Help of Christians Church
Mallabula

ST. BRIGID'S PARISH - RAYMOND TERRACE

Sunday 1st December 2024 ~ First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

"Our Parish will be a vital, caring and welcoming community, living the Gospel of Jesus in word and action."

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:

65 William Street, Raymond Terrace
PO Box 10 Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

Phone: (02) 49871888

Email: rtparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website:

www.stbrigidrraymondterrace.com.au

Fr. Joyce Sebastian Victor
Parish Priest & Dean
Myall Deanery

Catherine McAuley Catholic College

Chaplain: Fr. Anthony Coloma

Parish Secretary: Kate Allen

Financial Secretary: Phil Hickling

Sacramental Co-ordinator:

Mary-Jane Malone

Office Hours: Monday: Office Closed
Tuesday to Friday: 9.30am - 2.30pm

ST. BRIGID'S

69 William St, Raymond Terrace

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.30am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday and Wednesday 7.00am

Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.30pm

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

507 Medowie Rd, Medowie

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 5.30pm

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday and Friday at 5.30pm

Reconciliation: Friday 5.00pm

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

1193 Lemon Tree Passage Rd, Mallabula

Weekend Mass:

Sunday 7.30am

Weekday Mass:

Thursday 9.15am

Reconciliation: Sunday 7.00am

The Presider blesses the wreath and the assembly with the sprinkling of holy water, using these or similar words:

May the sprinkling of this water remind all of us gathered here of our first sharing in the grace of baptism. During this time of Advent may we prepare for the Lord's coming with open hearts and minds. May this wreath be a symbol to us of this time of prayerful watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord now and for all time.

The Presider, or an assistant, lights the first candle, which is often named the Prophets' Candle as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now as we read the prophet Jeremiah's words who promised that there shall be honesty and integrity in the land.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, that we may love one another and the whole human race as you did.

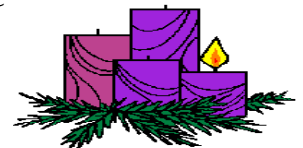
R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, we must stay awake as you will come again as the Son of Man.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16 ~ I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 ~ When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36 ~ Your redemption is near at hand.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

The Sick

Lucy Went, Tony Murphy, Linda Birt, Peter Betwell, Alicia Proctor, Rachael Hill, Kevin McKinley, Dianna McKinley, Alan James, David Ross, Cath Beazley, John Flynn, Michael Johnson, Robyn Turner, Sarah Carter, Yvonne Bailey, Hugo Rice, Christine Natson, Karen O'Brien, Kylie Scott, Andrew Pelley, Lila Lineham, Keith Smith, Justen Bailey, Patricia Bowmaker, Kerrie, Christine, Johanne Kenning, Michael O'Halloran, Ita Giggins, Matthew Carter, Margaret Spooner, Carmel Walker, Eileen Mullen, Andrew Trivers, Ted Lyons, Jan, Elaine Margery, Bishop Michael Malone, Fr. Maurie Cahill and Coral McCaull.



(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.)

A Message from Bishop Michael Kennedy

“Resumption of Communion from the Chalice. Having received advice from the Diocesan Liturgical Council and discussed the matter extensively with the Council of Priests at several meetings I am allowing the resumption of Communion from the Chalice from the First Sunday of Advent, 1st December 2024.”

“The Catholic Guy” Online Advent Retreat

Advent is a time when we as Catholics are encouraged to focus more on our spiritual life to prepare for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. This Advent, The Catholic Guy is inviting people around the world to participate in a weekend online Advent Mission Event Retreat from 7th-9th December (and accessible online for all of Advent). To find out more, go to: <https://TheCatholicGuy.com/missionevent>

Christmas 2024 Mass Times



CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL

St. Brigid's School Hall, Raymond Terrace
Tuesday 24th December at 7.00pm

Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Mallabula
Tuesday, 24th December at 8.00pm

St. Christopher's Oratory, Medowie
Tuesday, 24th December at 9.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Our Lady Help of Christians, Mallabula
Wednesday, 25th December at 8.00am

St. Brigid's School Hall, Raymond Terrace
Wednesday, 25th December at 8.30am

Anointing Mass

An Anointing Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 4th December at 9.15am at St. Brigid's Parish Hall Raymond Terrace and on Thursday 5th December at 9.15am at Our Lady Help of Christians Mallabula. Please note the 7am Mass on Wednesday 4th December at St. Brigid's will be cancelled.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

It's the time of the year when the local Vinnies conference asks you to share the spirit of the season with our Vinnies clients. This Advent we're trying something different. Instead of asking for cash or credit donations, we're asking you to bring gift cards – of whatever value suits you – and leave in the gift box at the back of the hall/church (or at Medowie, on the Christmas tree!). Please ensure they are for local stores – Woolies, Aldi, Big W etc – so they are easily redeemed. It's more helpful to have eg two x \$25 cards rather than 1 x \$50 card, for obvious reasons. The cards – as well as those ordered by the Conference from its funds – will be distributed in time for clients to choose what best suits their needs, so we'd appreciate having cards early in December. We are always ready to welcome new members to the Conference. You need a heart for the poor, and reasonable computer skills, and you will be guided every step of the way of course. Maybe a new year resolution? Thank you for your generosity.



Christmas Ministry Volunteers

We are calling for volunteers to assist in the ministries at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass and the Christmas Day Mass at St. Brigid's Raymond Terrace and at Our Lady Help of Christians Mallabula. Please place your name on the sheet at your Mass Centre notice board this weekend so that the completed rosters can be published in the Sunday bulletins in the lead up to Christmas.

Advent Booklets

With Advent commencing on Sunday 1st December, the beautiful Advent Booklet 'The Light' has daily reflections which help to prepare us spiritually for the Feast of Christmas. The daily reflections continue until 12th January. Lidy has a few extra booklets for sale at \$5 each. To purchase one, please text Lidy on: 0425 212 142 or email Lidy at: waanders.lidy@gmail.com with your name, and she will arrange for a booklet to be left for you at the Parish Office.

Medowie Friendship

Please join us. All welcome.

- ★ First Monday of the Month: Cuppa at the Greenhouse at 10am please phone Nina on 0428 848 033.
- ★ Second Tuesday of the Month: Craft Group from 9am- 12 noon please phone Ann on 0458 193 312.
- ★ Third Saturday of the Month: Cuppa after the Vigil Mass. You may choose to bring some food to share. Coffee and tea provided.

Advent 2024: Awaiting Hope

We are called during this holy time to wait with hope knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. *Awaiting Hope* is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it. To access the resource, please visit the website: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/advent-christmas-1/>

Bulletin Notices

Please see the back page of this Bulletin for more notices.

MASS AT HOME

Live stream Sunday Mass from the Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle

You can watch the live stream from the Sacred Heart Cathedral every Sunday at 9.30am by visiting the website: www.mn.catholic.org.au and clicking on "Sunday Mass Live Streams".

Watch Mass on TV

You can watch *Mass for You at Home* on Channel Ten at 6am on Sundays or on Foxtel's Aurora Channel (173) at 10am on Sundays.

Watch Mass Online

Visit these websites: www.10play.com.au or www.massforyou.com.au to watch *Mass for You at Home* at a time convenient to you.

ROSARY

The Rosary is prayed before Mass at St. Brigid's Raymond Terrace every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Rosary is prayed at 7am every Sunday at Our Lady Help of Christians Mallabula.

The Rosary is prayed before Mass at St. Christopher's Medowie every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.



ADORATION

First Friday of the Month at St. Brigid's Raymond Terrace at 8.30am.

Every Friday before the 5.30pm Mass at St. Christopher's Medowie.

PARISH BULLETIN

To have a name placed on the death anniversaries or sick list please ensure that you phone the office before 11.30am on Thursday.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
Office of Safeguarding: 4979 1390

DIOCESE: To see what's on in our Diocese visit their website www.mn.catholic.org.au, call them on 49 791111 or get the App!



St. Vincent de Paul Society: Newcastle Office Ph. 49676277 and/or Mallabula Conference Ph. 0402 087 401 (Brian)



ST. BRIGID'S, RAYMOND TERRACE

	Welcomer	Ministers of the Word	Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion	Presentation of Gifts
30/11/24	Mary Thorpe	Brendon Mannyx Clare Dawson	Paul Edstein	George Kime Anne Kime
1/12/24	Elenoa Cutmore	Lidy Waanders Bernadette Searl	Vynette Shrimpton	Catherine Hickling Elenoa Cutmore
7/12/24	Mary Thorpe	Claire Mannyx Carmel Warby	Clare Dawson	Mannyx Family
8/12/24	Vynette Shrimpton	Shane Giggins Phil Hickling	Astrid Hartcher	Vynette Shrimpton Linda Birt

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, MALLABULA

	Ministers of the Word	Commentator	Presentation of Gifts
1/12/24	Elizabeth Currie	Greg Patteson	Sue Dallas & Elizabeth Currie
8/12/24	Jo Nederlof	Catherine Kilpatrick	Anne Cheetham & Albert Went

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, MEDOWIE

	Open, Close & Lock	Welcomer	Minsters of the Word	Presentation of Gifts	Acolyte
30/11/24	Greg Hammond Nina Hammond	Mary L Sultana	Leticia Wakely Leonie White	Ingrid Cacciato Giovanni Cacciato	Noel Tucker
7/12/24	Greg Hammond Nina Hammond	Anne Spooner	Ann Byron Christine Worthington	Yvonne Carolan Margaret Metcalf	Andrew Chahoud

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Faith Matters: He Loved Us ~ An article published by Rosemary McAllister on 12th November 2024

"It is hard to believe that 2024 is coming to a close and the door for the Jubilee year 'Pilgrims of Hope' will soon be opened. Being able to focus on prayer in 2024 as Pope Francis asked the faithful has presented the perfect opportunity to spiritually prepare ourselves for the 2025 celebrations. On reflection many individuals and groups across the diocese have spent the year intentionally praying and engaging in different types of prayers.

One group from Jesus, The Good Shepherd, Parish Belmont have been meeting on a regular basis to reflect on the Sunday Gospel. Parishioner Jan Allen had a burning desire to engage the community in faith formation and initiated the invitation for a monthly gathering. As a result, a constant, yet fluid group have been meeting for the best part of the year. It has been a privilege to be invited into the space of prayer and reflection as the mystery of God is revealed through scripture, an encounter with each other and our experience with the wider world.

This month the group reflected on the Gospel of Mark 12:28-34, The Greatest Commandment. The scripture speaks of when one of the teachers of the law questions Jesus about what is the most important commandment. Jesus being a faithful Jew states loving only one God then adds another commandment, love your neighbour as yourself!

As part of the prayerful process of Mystagogical reflection we turn our focus to what captures our attention, what is God revealing to us, why does it matter now and how will we live differently because of what we have heard. I am continuously amazed by the wisdom and richness that occurs when we apply the scripture to our own life. While it is important to consider the world behind the text, the world within the text, it is the world in front of the text and what we experience in the here and now that puts our faith into action.

Through sharing experiences of loving our neighbour we all developed a deeper understanding and appreciation of what it means to give and receive love. Despite this, questions did emerge about the epidemic of loneliness and challenges within contemporary society. My thoughts turned to Pope Francis' fourth encyclical, dedicated to the Heart of Jesus Christ: *Dilexit Nos* "He Loved Us" which was only released on October 24, 2024. The central idea of this encyclical is that the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ is not just an intimate, personal experience but the deep source that drives us to love others, change society, and build peace through dialogue and respect for others.

So how can we show love to our neighbour, so our faith speaks louder than words?

The insight I gained from the prayer group was sometimes it is the little things that can make a big difference. Inviting a stranger to dinner, a warm greeting as you pass someone by, assisting with fundraising for those in need, talking to people when you take your dog for a walk, popping up from weeding your garden to say hello to a new mum pushing a pram, reaching out to the lonely and isolated. Ultimately treating all with dignity, respect and overall love, the same love that Jesus showed all he encountered and the love he shows us.

As we prepare to be pilgrims of hope there is much, we can learn from Pope Francis' latest writings and reflecting on scripture with each other". *By Rosemary McAllister*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1-9 ~ Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 ~ Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:1-6 ~ All people shall see the salvation of God.