



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 8th March 2026 ~ Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

"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: rparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Web: www.stbrigidraymondterrace.com.au

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

Fr. Joyce Sebastian Victor

Administrator : St. Brigid's Parish
Parish Priest : Myall Coast Parish
Dean : Myall Deanery

Asst Priest: Fr. Peter Thoai (on Leave)

Asst Priest: Fr. Anton Perera

St. Brigid's Parish & Myall Coast Parish

Parish Secretary: Kate Allen

Financial Secretary: Phil Hickling

Sacramental Coordinator: Maryjane Malone

ST. BRIGID'S

69 William St, Raymond Terrace

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 5.00pm and Sunday 9.30am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday and Wednesday 7.00am
Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.15pm

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

507 Medowie Rd, Medowie

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 6.00pm

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

Thoughts on the Gospel



The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

A reflection by Greg Sunter.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7 ~ Give us water to drink.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 ~ The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

GOSPEL READING: John 4:5-42 ~ The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

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, John Flynn, Michael Johnson, Robyn Turner, Sarah Carter, Yvonne Bailey, Hugo Rice, Christine Natson, Kylie Scott, Andrew Pelley, Lila Lineham, Keith Smith, Justen Bailey, Patricia Bowmaker, Kerrie, Christine, Johanne Kenning, Michael O'Halloran, Ted Lyons, Matthew Carter, Margaret Spooner, Carmel Walker, Jan, Eileen Mullen, Andrew Trivers, Elaine Margery, Bishop Michael Malone, Coral McCaull, Zeljka Woods, Jessica Byron, Judith Robbins, Elaine Roberts, Clare Lyons, Carol Bourke, Lisa Pritchard, Ian Robertson, Sue Dainton, Susan Munnery and Rae Blyton.

Death Anniversaries

Catherine Beazley



(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.)

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be said every Saturday in Lent when Mass is offered at St. Christopher's Medowie at 5.30pm.

Stations of the Cross will be said every Friday in Lent at Our Lady Help of Christians Mallabula at 9.15am.



The Holy Triduum



2nd April: This year on Maundy Thursday *Mass of the Lord's Supper* will be celebrated at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Mallabula at 7.00pm.

3rd April: This year on Good Friday *The Lord's Passion* will be held at St Christopher's Oratory Medowie at 3.00pm

4th April: This year on Holy Saturday *Easter Vigil* and Baptisms will be celebrated at St. Brigid's Church Raymond Terrace at 7.00pm.

All the members of the Parish are requested to fully participate in the Holy Triduum.

Stations of the Cross & Easter Sunday Mass Times

St. Brigid's, Raymond Terrace

Friday 3rd April	Stations of the Cross	10.00am
Sunday 5th April	Easter Sunday Mass	9.30am

Our Lady Help of Christians, Mallabula

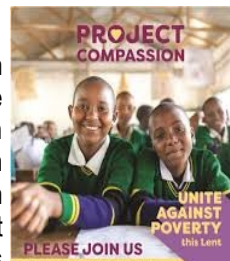
Friday 3rd April	Stations of the Cross	9.15am
Sunday 5th April	Easter Sunday Mass	7.30am

St. Christopher's, Medowie

Friday 3rd April	Stations of the Cross	9.15am
Sunday 5th April	Easter Sunday Mass	8.30am

Project Compassion Third Sunday of Lent

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. This week we introduce Monoranjon. He lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future. You can support Project Compassion through the donation boxes or envelopes provided, donating online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413.



Lenten Retreat Invitation

Does the thought of a Lenten retreat speak to your heart? Are you longing for time to draw aside and spend more deeply with God during this sacred season? You are warmly invited to attend the Lenten Retreat at St Francis Xavier's Church, Belmont, presented by St Joseph Men & Full of Grace Collective. The retreat will take place on Sunday 15th March from 10am-4pm. There is no cost to attend the retreat, however, donations are welcome on the day. We are blessed to welcome two international guest speakers who will share powerful testimonies and inspiring reflections to help us enter more fully into the season of Lent. Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation will be led by Parish Priest Fr Gerard Mackie. Come and take time to pause, pray, and renew your spirit. Bring a friend, there is room for everyone. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. To register please text: Bernadette Barlow 0425 270 613 or Curtis Mahoney 0477 106 108 with your name, contact number and dietary requirements.

Mass Replaces the SCAE at St. Brigid's on 28th March

A Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 28th March (not a SCAE) at 5pm at St. Brigid's Raymond Terrace on the occasion of Palm Sunday.

Mission to Seafarers / Stella Maris Centre Volunteers & Mass

The Mission to Seafarers/Stella Maris Centre are in need of volunteer drivers the Afternoon/Evening Roster Mondays to Fridays 3pm-10pm and on the weekends. Enquiries to mark.spencer1@mn.catholic.org.au or 0408 895 951. Next Mass service at the Centre: Thursday 26 March 5.30pm.

SCAE Helpers

If you would like to help with the SCAEs please give your name to the Parish Office and then training will be organised.

Special Religious Education (SRE) Volunteers

Each week our small group of dedicated Catechists teach Scripture (SRE) in our local public primary schools. We need more volunteers for 2026! Catechists have an incredible impact on the faith journey of the children that they teach. Do you have 1 or 2 hours to spare each week? Is this ministry your calling? If so, then please make contact with the Parish Office on 49 871 888 and we will put you in touch with our SRE coordinator. All training and resources are provided.

Leaving a Bequest to St. Brigid's Parish or the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle



Many of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan and Parish works that are currently helping those in need are made possible by the bequests that have been received. Each one of us finds different ways to make our mark on the world. One way of doing this is by making a bequest. A bequest is a gift left in a will. When you leave a bequest to the Church, you give a gift that lasts longer than your lifetime, a gift that will always be remembered. After providing for your family, a bequest to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle or the St. Brigid's Parish is a special way of ensuring the work of the Church continues. Some bequests are large and some are small but all are vital to the work of the Church.

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 For You At Home on TV from the Diocese of Wollongong

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.

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

To find out 'What's On' in our Diocese visit their website www.mn.catholic.org.au or call them on 49 79 1111 (Monday to Friday).

ROSARY

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

The Rosary is prayed at 7am Sunday and 8.45am Thursdays at Our Lady Help of Christians Mallabula.

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

SCAE ROSTER

First Weekend: 5.00pm Saturday
St. Brigid's Raymond Terrace

Second Weekend: 6.00pm Saturday
St. Christopher's Medowie

Third Weekend: 7.30am Sunday
Our Lady Help of Christians Mallabula

Fourth Weekend: 9.30am Sunday
St. Brigid's Raymond Terrace

Fifth Weekend: 5.00pm Saturday
St. Brigid's Raymond Terrace

PARISH BULLETIN

To have a name placed on the Death Anniversaries or Sick List please ensure that you phone or email Kate at the Parish Office before 11.30am on Thursdays.

ADORATION

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

Every Friday at 5.00pm at St. Christopher's Medowie.

SAFEGUARDING

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Newcastle: 49 676 277
Mallabula: 0402 087 401 (Brian)

ST. BRIGID'S, RAYMOND TERRACE

	Welcomer	Ministers of the Word	Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion	Presentation of Gifts
7/3/26	Mary Thorpe	Volunteer Claire Mannyx	Volunteer Vannessa Tasker	Rodney Trappel Pauline Trappel
8/3/26	Eleona Cutmore	Christina Cutting Vinette Shrimpton	Phil Hickling Vinette Shrimpton	Helen Taylor Christina Cutting
14/3/26	Mary Thorpe	Maureen Smith Tracey Edstein	Tracey Edstein Clare Dawson	Paul Edstein Barbara Edstein
15/3/26	Vinette Shrimpton	Robert Woolley Shane Giggins	Astrid Hartcher Shane Giggins	Dalene Myers Vinette Shrimpton

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, MALLABULA

	Ministers of the Word	Commentator	Presentation of Gifts
8/3/26	Jeremy Clark	Anne Cheetham	Val Betwell & Carmel Volker
15/3/26	Carmel Volker	Cynthia Rogers	Jo Nederlof & Jeanette Solway

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, MEDOWIE

	Open, Close & Lock	Welcomer	Minsters of the Word	Presentation of Gifts	Acolyte
7/3/26	Music Ministry SCAE Leader: Jenny G	Mary L Sultana	Ingrid Cacciato Leonie White	Candle Bearers: Denise D & Ann B	Communion Minister: Patrick Byron
14/3/26	Greg Hammond Nina Hammond	John White Leonie White	Mary Chahoud Yvonne Carolan	Ingrid Cacciato Giovanni Cacciato	Andrew Chahoud

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give up will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Project Compassion Lenten Prayer

God of all love,

We remember that on the night before he died Your son, Jesus, prayed that his friends 'may all be one.

Yet we see so much division in the world. War, conflict, violence and hatred must all distress you. .

Millions of people suffer when they don't have peace and respect. They lack the necessities of life: food, water, health, education and security.

We pray that we may all Unite Against Poverty this Lent. May our support for Project Compassion be a sign to ourselves and others, of our hope for a better world.

This Lent, we pray that our dedication to prayer, fasting and almsgiving will help restore your vision of justice and peace.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.



ACBC Social Justice Statement

This year, the Australian bishops have chosen to release two Social Justice Statements – one in February and another in August. The February statement is titled The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good. The statements are available to read by visiting: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Social-Justice-Statements>

Invitation to Medowie Friendship

An invitation is extended to all parishioners from Medowie, Mallabula and Raymond Terrace to the following friendship events:

- First Monday of the Month: Cuppa at the Greenhouse (Pacific Dunes) at 10.00am. For more details please call Nina on 0428 848 033.
- First Thursday of the Month: Ladies' Dinner. For more details please call Leonie on 0418 456 072.
- First Thursday of the Month: Men's Dinner at the Bull n Bush Hotel Medowie. For more details please call Patrick on 0409 648 837.
- Second Tuesday of the Month: Craft and Cuppa at Nina's. For more details please call Nina on 0428 848 033.
- Third Weekend of the Month: Cuppa after the Saturday 6pm Mass at St. Christopher's Oratory Medowie.

Called & Gifted Discernment Process 2026 – Expressions of Interest Now Open

After the success of the 2025 trial, Mission & Evangelisation is working with the Catherine of Siena Institute to offer the Called & Gifted Discernment Process this year. We will again offer this life-changing discernment process, inviting you to discover your God-given charisms. Commencing in May 2026, step forward in faith and help our parishes thrive through use of your gifts. Express your interest online: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=x2JU50ZySU-2DkekM06p1i_PFcQ4jWZAnWC3yIqUs5ZURjVCMUyTjU2UE4wUFM0T01KTIA1MENVQi4u&route=shorturl

Zimmerman Service Healing and Support

Zimmerman Service Healing and Support provide support and assistance to anyone impacted by sexual assault perpetrated by an employee (paid or volunteer) of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle or in another religious institution and who now lives in our Diocese. If you are a survivor or a relative and need support please contact the confidential service on 49230636 or email: zimmerman-service@healingandsupport.org.au. Their hours are 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Reception is available Tuesday through Thursday. Feel free to leave a message at any time, and a team member will respond as soon as possible.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 ~ In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 ~ Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41 ~ The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.