



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 23rd August 2026 ~ Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (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: rtparish@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

Assistant Priest: Fr. Peter Thoai

Assistant 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:

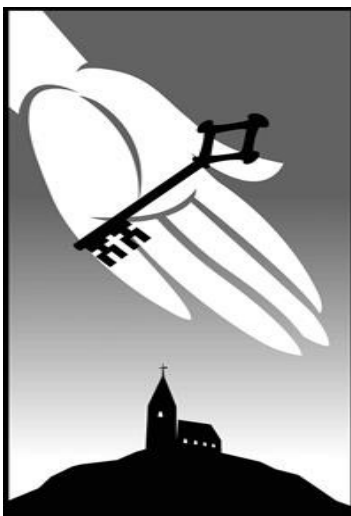
Sunday 7.30am

Weekday Mass:

Thursday 9.15am

Reconciliation: Sunday 7.00am

Thoughts on the Gospel



Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Philippi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

A reflection by Greg Sunter.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19-23 ~ I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-36 ~ From him, through him, and in him are all things.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:13-20 ~ You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

The Sick

Lucy Went, Tony Murphy, Linda Birt, Peter Betwell, Alicia Proctor, Kevin McKinley, Dianna McKinley, David Ross, John Flynn, Michael Johnson, Hugo Rice, Robyn Turner, Yvonne Bailey, Christine Natson, Kylie Scott, Andrew Pelley, Lila Lineham, Keith Smith, Justen Bailey, Patricia Bowmaker, Kerrie, Christine, Johanne Kenning, Michael O'Halloran, Ted Lyons, Margaret Spooner, Jan, Carmel Walker, Eileen Mullen, Andrew Trivers, Elaine Margery, Rae Blyton, Coral McCaull, Zeljka Woods, Jessica Byron, Judith Robbins, Elaine Roberts, Clare Lyons, Carol Bourke, Lisa Pritchard, Sue Dainton, Susan Munnerly, Denis Cahill, Linda Fitzsimmons, Catherine Armitage, Mary Josephine, Frank Byron, Joyce Byron, Kevin Gibson, Bob James, Patricia Simpson and Melissa Wade.

Death Anniversaries

James Kerrigan and Marie Cahill.



Bulletin Notices

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

St Carlo Acutis Major Relic Mission

Known for his deep love of the Eucharist and passion for sharing the Gospel through modern technology, St Carlo Acutis continues to inspire people around the world. As his relic tours the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, all are invited to encounter the message that made Carlo a saint for our times. St Carlo Acutis outlined five core practices for reaching holiness and heaven: participating in the Holy Mass, spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, receiving regular Confession, turning to the Blessed Mother through the Rosary, and practicing acts of charity. The mission is an invitation to encounter the story of St Carlo and how he encouraged people to participate in life of Catholic Church. All are welcome to attend the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday 8th September at 5.30pm for the Reception of Relic, Mass and Veneration.

World Youth Day 2027 Launch Event

Bishop Michael Kennedy has announced the Diocesan pilgrimage to South Korea and Japan for young people aged 16-35 next year. World Youth Day with Pope Leo XIV will be an enriching experience of pilgrimage for young people which has a profound impact on their relationship with Jesus, their prayer life, their lived mission and their relationships with others. Join us for the Reception of the Relic of World Youth Day Patron Saint Carlo Acutis on Tuesday 8th September at the Sacred Heart Cathedral from 5.30pm (Mass & Veneration) followed by refreshments and then the World Youth Day Launch Event, featuring early information about this exciting opportunity, commencing at 7.00pm. A copy of Bishop Michael's letter regarding World Youth Day can be found on the notice board at your Mass Centre.

Novena to Our Lady of Good Health

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank You All for Your Prayers and Wishes.

Most Rev. Michael Kennedy Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle has GRANTED the Approval towards the Novena to Our Lady of Good Health at St Brigid's Church, Raymond Terrace. The Novena would begin on 29th August to 07th September and will conclude with the Feast Day Mass of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 08th September, 2026. Kindly see the Novena Flyer on the notice board for timings and theme.

Our Lady of Good Health Pray for us." Fr Joyce Sebastian Victor

Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division

Bishop Michael Kennedy reflects on the latest Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement and the Gospel call to be people of encounter and reconciliation. Visit: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/news/living-the-gospel-in-times-of-social-division-a-message-from-bishop-michael-kennedy/>. Leading into Social Justice Sunday on 30th August, parishes are encouraged to reflect on the 'culture of encounter' as part of our current season of listening assemblies and renewal.

Our Parish. Our Stories. Our Future.

An Invitation to our Parish Assembly

It has been many years since we last gathered for a Parish Assembly, and much has changed in our parish, our communities and the world around us. Our Parish Assembly will be held after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 25th October at St. Brigid's Parish Hall. This Parish Assembly is an opportunity for parishioners from across our community to gather in faith, celebrate who we are, share our stories, name the challenges we face, and listen together for where the Holy Spirit may be leading us. Whether you have been part of the parish for many years, have joined us more recently, attend regularly or only occasionally, you are part of our story and you are warmly invited to participate. Through prayer, storytelling and conversation, we will listen to one another and explore our hopes and dreams for the future. What we hear will help shape our parish's mission, vision and pastoral priorities for the years ahead. Our Day Together:

9.30am	Mass at St Brigid's Church Raymond Terrace
10.30am	Morning Tea & Conversation in the Parish Hall (please bring a plate to share)
11.00am	Our Story: Storytelling in Small Groups
12.30pm	Shared Lunch (please bring a plate to share)
1.15pm	Looking to the Future: Hopes, Dreams & Challenges
2.45pm	Where to From Here? What We Heard & What Comes Next Your Voice Matters!

This is an opportunity to listen deeply to one another, strengthen the relationships that make us a community and discern together the kind of parish we are being called to become. Come and help us imagine the next chapter of our parish life, together. Please register your attendance using the QR code on the notice board at your Mass Centre or visit this link:

:https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=x2JU50ZySU-2DkemO6p1i_PFcQ4jWZAnWC3ylqUs5ZURVBVOFY2TVNNSzAyREI5UzhFQktLOE5NMi4u&route=shorturl

St. Brigid's School Spring Fair

The St. Brigid's Primary School Spring Fair will be held on Sunday 13th September from 10am-2pm in the school grounds. There will be entertainment, rides, food, lollies, showbags, raffles and lots more. All welcome. Free entry!

Mission to Seafarers & Stella Maris Mass / Donations

MASS: The next Mass to be celebrated is at 5:30pm on Thursday 27th August at the Seafarers Chapel at 96 Hannel Street Wickham. All are welcome. DONATIONS: The mission is calling on the following donations for their care packs for vessels entering our port: Beanies, Lolly Bags, Card Games/Jigsaw Puzzles, Combs, Magazines, Razors, Socks, Toothpaste & Brushes. Donation drop off: 96 Hannel Street Wickham.

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.

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.



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.

OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
Office of Safeguarding

Phone: 4979 1390

Address: 50 Crebert St, Mayfield

Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au

CATHOLIC 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).

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Newcastle Office Phone Number: 49 676 277

ST. BRIGID'S, RAYMOND TERRACE

	Welcomer	Ministers of the Word	Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion	Presentation of Gifts
22/8/26	Mary Thorpe	Brendon Mannyx Carmel Warby	Tracey Edstein Vannessa Tasker	Mannyx Family
23/8/26	Elenoa Cutmore	Astrid Hartcher Christina Cutting	Phil Hickling Vnette Shrimpton	Catherine Hickling Helen Taylor
29/8/26	Mary Thorpe	Maureen Smith Tracey Edstein	Paul Edstein Clare Dawson	Rodney Trappel Pauline Trappel
30/8/26	Vnette Shrimpton	Vnette Shrimpton Robert Woolley	Astrid Hartcher Shane Giggins	Christina Cutting Dalene Myers

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, MALLABULA

	Ministers of the Word	Commentator	Presentation of Gifts
23/8/26	Anne Cheetham	Jeremy Clark	Val Betwell & Carmel Volker
30/8/26	Greg Patteson	Carmel Volker	Jo Nederlof & Jeanette Solway

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, MEDOWIE

	Open, Close & Lock	Welcomer	Minsters of the Word	Presentation of Gifts/ Candle Bearers	Acolyte
22/8/26		Mary L Sultana	Mary Chahoud Gloria Gomes	Denise Dawe Anne Spooner	Andrew Chahoud
29/8/26		Anne Spooner	Ann Byron Megan Neilson	Ingrid Cacciato Giovanni Cacciato	Patrick Byron

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

HYMNS FOR THIS WEEKEND AT ST. BRIGID'S RAYMOND TERRACE

We Walk By Faith ~ *Hymn 63* Gather Your People ~ *Hymn 71* Jesus, You are Bread for Us ~ *Hymn 42* Companions on the Journey ~ *Hymn 188*

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 6.00pm Mass at St. Christopher's Oratory Medowie.

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.

Called to Know More: How Does Faith Guide 'The Joy of Christian Living in a Morally Crazy World'

In the next Called to Know More formation series, on Wednesday 26th August at 12noon at the Diocesan Resource Centre, join Fr Anthony Coloma as he address the question - Does faith guide ethical and moral decisions? Fr Anthony approaches these questions using the framework of "encounter," drawn from the teachings of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. He believes that meaningful conversations about morality start with encountering Jesus through Scripture, the Eucharist, and personal prayer and are driven by a desire for union with God. Join us for Morality 101. Discover how hardship shapes faith, and God's welcoming love for those who have drifted. Come listen, share, and enjoy hospitality afterwards. All welcome. Learn More: Morality 101: The Joy of Christian Living in a Morally Crazy. To register: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/morality-101-the-joy-of-christian-living-in-a-morally-crazy-world/>

Eucharist28 Update – Hearts Set Ablaze!

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centered on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation. At the very first Pentecost, the apostles were transformed as the fire of the Holy Spirit was poured out for them, empowering them to go out to evangelise the world. "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God." – Acts of the Apostles 2:46-47. The early Church was Eucharistic. They gathered together in community and shared in the breaking of the bread. It was through believing in and sharing in Christ's body and blood that the Holy Spirit set their hearts ablaze, strengthening them to spread the Good News without fear. This national journey to Eucharist28 is an invitation for all of us to be set on fire by the Holy Spirit and share in the breaking of the bread. The journey begins now, in our own hearts, in our own parishes. For more information and regular updates, please register on the website: eucharist28.org

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9 ~ The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2 ~ May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:21-27 ~ Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.