

Saint Michael's Catholic Parish



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www.nelsonbaycatholicchurch.com
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 20 July 2025

We acknowledge the Worimi people - the traditional custodians of this land.
The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

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 5.00pm

Wednesday 9:15am

Thursday 5:00pm

Friday 9:15am

NURSING HOME MASSES

Every Second Wednesday

10.30 am Uniting

Muller Street

Salamander Bay

Every Third Thursday

10.00am Regis Age Care

Corlette.

Every Forth Thursday

10.00am Harbourside

Shoal Bay.

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 Anointing Mass will be celebrated on the first Friday of each month at 9.15am.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Please pray for the children in our sacramental program, as they journey together to deepen their relationship with God, and become fully initiated into our Catholic faith.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S AFRICA APPEAL

Across Africa, millions of people are trapped in a desperate struggle for survival. Conflict, violence, hunger, and displacement are tearing communities apart. In places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and across the Horn of Africa, the situation is critical. In response, Caritas Australia is supporting partners across the region to provide vital aid including emergency shelter, food and nutrition support, and access to clean water. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Africa Crisis Appeal by visiting the website: www.caritas.org.au/africa or calling 1800 024 413.

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.

**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**

1700th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NICENE CREED

Celebrating the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed Mission & Evangelisation invites you to this premium formation offering with Associate Professor Joel Hodge, National Head, School of Theology, Australian Catholic University on Wednesday 30 July 2025. Choose from one of two two-hour sessions at 3:30pm or 6:00pm as he immerses us in the history and theology of the Nicene Creed. This 'deep-dive' into 'what we believe' is not to be missed as we celebrate its 1700 years. This free event, over 2hrs, face to face, will become part of an ongoing formation series hosted at St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland in 2025. In between the sessions there will be a shared light supper.

Register at: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/celebrating-the-1700th-anniversary-of-the-nicene-creed/>

THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Celebrating Revelation Join Sister Louise Gannon and Father Andrew Doohan over two consecutive Saturdays, 16 and 23 August, to explore and reflect on the principles of Catholic liturgy. This is the final unit of the Christian Formation Course. This year we are inviting the participation of any interested members of the faithful, from parishes and schools, who wish to explore and reflect on the principles of Catholic liturgy to join us the Toohey Room, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West from 9am-4pm. These principles shape the meaning and practice of Catholic liturgy and so deepen our understanding and appreciation of why we do what we do. This is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with God, your understanding of Catholic liturgy, and to reflect on your own full conscious and active participation as a member of the Assembly. All are welcome. Morning tea and lunch provided. Attendance at both days is required to complete the unit. Registrations close 11 August.

To register go to <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/the-liturgical-life-of-the-church-celebrating-revelation/> or send your enquiries to mission@mn.catholic.org.au

HUNTER MEN'S ROSARY CRUSADE CAMINO

Calling All Men of Faith: Walk the Camino, Pray the Rosary, Build Brotherhood. Join a growing movement of men from across the Hunter region for a meaningful Rosary Camino - a time to pray, walk, and witness together in faith on Saturday 30 August from 10.30am. As we journey from Sacred Heart Cathedral to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and back, we'll unite in praying the Holy Rosary, seeking the intercession of Our Lady for our families, our Church, and our world. Whether you're a seasoned pilgrim or walking for the first time, this Camino invites you into something greater - a shared mission of prayer and presence.

Bring a friend, your parish group, or simply come as you are. Let us walk together - for Our Lady, for our Church, for each other. Registrations August.

Register at <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/hunter-mens-rosary-crusade-camino/>

Enquiries to mission@mn.catholic.org.au The Men's Rosary Crusade is held every 1st Saturday of the month from 10.30am in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton.

NEXT SUNDAY

**17th Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year C**

First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Second Reading

Colossians 2:12-14

Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

PRAYERS PLEASE

In your mercy, please pray for those who have died recently: Ida Ferrinda, Michael McQuade and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frederick Charles Dunn, Eulogia Mardo, Philip Smith, Edmund (Ted) Belcher, Barbara Simon and Gary Simon, Virgilio "Biyo" Vinluan, Grace Handayan Jones, and for the sick in our parish: Justin Fox, Damien Brinley, Sarlic Trumbli, Maureen Noonan, Clemente Quinajon, David Berkeley, Artemia Sheather, Mario Locantro, Anna Tan, Eduardo Vicedo, 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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**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE LEO XIV
WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS
AND THE ELDERLY**

27 July 2025

Blessed are those
who have not lost hope
(cf. Sir 14:2)



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2025



DICASTERIUM
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV
WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY
27 July 2025

Blessed are those who have not lost hope
(cf. Sir 14:2)

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Jubilee we are now celebrating helps us to realize that hope is a constant source of joy, whatever our age. When that hope has also been tempered by fire over the course of a long life, it proves a source of deep happiness.

Sacred Scripture offers us many examples of men and women whom the Lord called late in life to play a part in his saving plan. We can think of Abraham and Sarah, who, advanced in years, found it hard to believe when God promised them a child. Their childlessness seemed to prevent them from any hope for the future.

Zechariah's reaction to the news of John the Baptist's birth was no different: "How can this be? I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years" (*Lk* 1:18). Old age, barrenness and physical decline apparently blocked any hope for life and

fertility in these men and women. The question that Nicodemus asked Jesus when the Master spoke to him of being “born again” also seems purely rhetorical: “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” (Jn 3:4). Yet whenever we think that things cannot change, the Lord surprises us with an act of saving power.

The elderly as signs of hope

In the Bible, God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years. This was the case not only with Abraham, Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, but also with Moses, who was called to set his people free when he was already eighty years old (cf. Ex 7:7). God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, *the first witnesses of hope*. Augustine asks, “What do we mean by old age?” He tells us that God himself answers the question: “Let your strength fail, so that my strength may abide within you, and you can say with the Apostle, ‘When I am weak, then I am strong’” (*Super Ps.* 70,11). The increasing number of elderly people is a sign of the times that we are called to discern, in order to interpret properly this moment of history.

The life of the Church and the world can only be understood in light of the passage of generations. Embracing the elderly helps us to

understand that life is more than just the present moment, and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future. In the book of Genesis, we find the moving episode of the blessing given by the aged Jacob to his grandchildren, the sons of Joseph; his words are an appeal to look to the future with hope, as the time when God's promises will be fulfilled (cf. Gen 48:8-20). If it is true that the weakness of the elderly needs the strength of the young, it is equally true that the inexperience of the young needs the witness of the elderly in order to build the future with wisdom. How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commitment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance.

Signs of hope for the elderly

From biblical times, the Jubilee has been understood as a time of liberation. Slaves were freed, debts were forgiven and land was returned to its original owners. The Jubilee was a time when the social order willed by God was restored, and inequalities and injustices accumulated over the years were remedied. Jesus evoked those moments of liberation when, in the synagogue of Nazareth, he proclaimed good news to the poor, sight to the blind and freedom for prisoners and the oppressed (cf. Lk 4:16-21).

Looking at the elderly in the spirit of this Jubilee, we are called to help them experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment. This year is a fitting time to do so. God's fidelity to his promises teaches us that there is a blessedness in old age, an authentic evangelical joy inspiring us to break through the barriers of indifference in which the elderly often find themselves enclosed. Our societies, everywhere in the world, are growing all too accustomed to letting this significant and enriching part of their life be marginalized and forgotten.

Given this situation, a change of pace is needed that would be readily seen in an assumption of responsibility on the part of the whole Church. Every parish, association and ecclesial group is called to become a protagonist in a "revolution" of gratitude and care, to be brought about by regular visits to the elderly, the creation of networks of support and prayer for them and with them, and the forging of relationships that can restore hope and dignity to those who feel forgotten. Christian hope always urges us to be more daring, to think big, to be dissatisfied with things the way they are. In this case, it urges us to work for a change that can restore the esteem and affection to which the elderly are entitled.

That is why Pope Francis wanted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to be

celebrated primarily through an effort to seek out elderly persons who are living alone. For this reason, those who are unable to come to Rome on pilgrimage during this Holy Year may “obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, the elderly who are alone... making, in a sense, a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (cf. Mt 25:34-36)” (APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, *Norms for the Granting of the Jubilee Indulgence*, III). Visiting an elderly person is a way of encountering Jesus, who frees us from indifference and loneliness.

As elderly persons, we can hope

The Book of Sirach calls blessed those who have not lost hope (cf. 14:2). Perhaps, especially if our lives are long, we may be tempted to look not to the future but to the past. Yet, as Pope Francis wrote during his last hospitalization, “our bodies are weak, but even so, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being there for one another, in faith, as shining signs of hope” (*Angelus*, 16 March 2025). We possess a freedom that no difficulty can rob us of: it is the freedom to love and to pray. Everyone, always, can love and pray.

Our affection for our loved ones – for the wife or husband with whom we have spent so much of our lives, for our children, for our grandchildren who brighten our days – does not fade when our strength wanes. Indeed, their own

affection often revives our energy and brings us hope and comfort.

These signs of living love, which have their roots in God himself, give us courage and remind us that “even if our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day” (2 Cor 4:16). Especially as we grow older, let us press forward with confidence in the Lord. May we be renewed each day by our encounter with him in prayer and in Holy Mass. Let us lovingly pass on the faith we have lived for so many years, in our families and in our daily encounter with others. May we always praise God for his goodness, cultivate unity with our loved ones, open our hearts to those who are far away and, in particular, to all those in need. In this way, we will be signs of hope, whatever our age.

From the Vatican, 26 June 2025



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2025



DICASTERIUM
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

Port Stephens Prayer Dinner

The Combined Churches of Port Stephens
Invites you and your guests to attend the

Annual Prayer Dinner

To be held in the
Nelson Bay Golf Club
57 Dowling St, Nelson Bay

Friday August 29th, 2025

6:00 pm for Drinks & mingle

6:30pm – 8:30 pm dinner

Dress: Smart Casual ✓

Early Bird Tickets : \$45 until July 18th
\$55 until Aug 22nd

Book your tickets early as there are limited seats available
Price includes 2 course meal, tea & coffee.



<https://www.trybooking.com/DDBXS>

Better Together

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