

Saint Michael's Catholic Parish



12 Sproule Street - Nelson Bay 2315
Phone Number: 4981 1069 Mobile: 0401 233 650
Email: stmichaelsnb@mn.catholic.org.au
www.nelsonbaycatholicchurch.com
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 27 September 2026

We acknowledge the Worimi people – the traditional custodians of this land.
Remember your mercies, O 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	NO MASS
Wednesday	9.15am
Thursday	5.00pm
Friday	9.15am

NURSING HOME MASSES

Every First Thursday
10.00am Regis Aged Care
Corlette.
Every Second Wednesday
10.30 am Uniting.
Muller Street
Salamander Bay
Every Fourth 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

The following information is to assist parishioners and visitors:

Face masks are available at the church entrance.

Hand sanitiser is available at the church entrance.

Holy Water is available and changed regularly.

Please take your bulletin home with you after Mass.

There are two collection plates during Mass. Thank you for your continued support. The following option is available:

The First Collection supports Diocesan Clergy.

The Second Collection supports our Parish.

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.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE

Those requiring gluten-free hosts should approach Deacon Gerard or Fr. Anthony after the regular Communion line has concluded to receive them directly. Consecrated gluten-free hosts will be kept in the tabernacle.

NO MASS TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

112th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGGES SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

The theme for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Even Just One of These Children." To help celebrate this special day, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), more information available at: <https://acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2026>

MEDITATION

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.

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.
SAFEGUARDING PROMOTION: FOR ALL SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS WITHIN THE
PARISH, PLEASE CONTACT: FR. ANTHONY, DEACON GERARD AND
DIANNE MARICIC.

AN INVITATION TO OUR PARISH ASSEMBLY SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2026 (9.30AM - 3.30PM)

It has been many years since we last gathered for an Assembly, and much has changed in our Parish, our community, and the world around us. Our Bishop Michael is encouraging all parishes to connect in prayer, conversation, and reflection on our future direction. A gathering such as this invites us to reflect on our current parish life, celebrate our blessings, and discern together the path God is calling us to follow. 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. The day will include a briefing from Fr Matthew Muller (Vicar General) on our financial status and the opportunities/challenges that present themselves at this time. I have accepted the support of the diocesan *Mission & Evangelisation* team who will ensure that we have a handful of concrete local actions moving forward. With your support I hope to see a renewed Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council who can lead the inspiration and implementation. Please save the date and consider how you might invite those who will actively contribute now and into the future. Your voice matters and your presence will enrich our important conversations as we discern together the kind of parish we are being called to become. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to contribute to the planning.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people (aged 16-35) held every three years with the Pope. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is leading a pilgrimage in July 2027 to the next one in South Korea with an extended retreat in Japan following. Serious expressions of interest have now opened and can be logged on our webpage. We expect bookings to open in November with an \$800 deposit. Learn more

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/church/world-youth-day-2027/>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA NEPAL FLOODS APPEAL

Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on 26th August. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support. Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families. Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families are building their lives in Nepal. To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413.

NEXT SUNDAY

**27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A**

First Reading
Isaiah 5:1-7

Responsorial Psalm
The vineyard of the Lord
is the House of Israel.

Second Reading
Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel
Matthew 21:33-43

PRAYERS PLEASE

In your mercy, please pray for those who have died recently Damir Ricov, John Aspinall and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Moira Scott, Faustino, Alejandro and Rufina Bandilla, Frank Dolezal, Keith Staples, Amelyn Logon, Claudio Bandilla, James Allen, Noel Templin, Jules and Darnelly Pasnin, Jill Mackinnon, Frank Ferraro, Rocco Farreffa, Carmen Chetcuti, James Hanlon, Caterina Speranza, Norma Therese Innes and Francis Charles Lantry and for the sick in our parish: Gloria Reyes, Solomon Keys, Stephen Ogilvie, Peter Collins, Ron Finch, Damien Brinley, Robyn Harris, Lorraine McCourt, Justin Fox, Joe Garreffa, Brenda and Brian Tucker, Sarlic Trumbli, Clemente Quinajon, David Berkeley, Anna Tan, Johnny and Alexander Vella and David 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.

COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: © The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. Disclaimer: Unless otherwise stated, advertisements placed in this newsletter are by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not able to endorse the advertisers, or the service provided and makes no representation about such matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements. Text Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2012, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Prayer taken from Liturgy Help © 2024. Images were taken from Liturgy Help, Caritas and Microsoft Clip Art. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2024 NAPCAN.

World Day of
Migrants and
Refugees

27-IX-2026



"Even just one of these children"



AUSTRALIAN
CATHOLIC MIGRANT
& REFUGEE OFFICE



Even just one
of these children.

*"Whoever welcomes one
such child in my name
welcomes me"*
(Mt 18:5)

Sunday,
27 September 2026





MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE 112th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

27 September 2026

[Multimedia]

Even Just One of These Children (cf. Mt 18:10)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Each year the World Day of Migrants and Refugees invites us to turn our attention to different aspects of the complex phenomenon of migration. For this 112th World Day, the theme, “Even just one of these children,” draws our attention to the minors directly involved in the experience of migration and flight, to the care owed to them, and to the Lord’s promise that “whoever receives one such child in my name receives me” (Mk 9:37).

Displaced minors: a complex reality of vulnerability

Minors are the most vulnerable group within the global movements of migration. They are concrete faces, who have unique stories, and call on our conscience. Every year, millions of children and adolescents are forced to leave their homeland because of war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters and other tragedies. Sadly, their number continues to grow. The economic, political and military consequences of this disaster are immense. The suffering of migrant children does not end with their relocation. There are very young children who have lost parents, brothers, sisters and friends, and who

have witnessed unspeakable acts of violence. Others, separated from their families for long periods, try to reunite with them while enduring the anguish of separation. There are also minors who make the journey together with their parents, yet are exposed to extreme and traumatic conditions. Finally, we cannot forget the tragic situation of those separated from their parents because of repatriation.

To this already appalling situation are added further tragedies: deaths along migration routes, trafficking and exploitation, the recruitment of minors for use in armed conflicts, sexual violence, forced marriages, and the atrocities they have suffered or witnessed during their travels. Their dignity is trampled upon in countless ways.

In his [Message for the 2017 World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#), dedicated to the theme "Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless", [Pope Francis](#) recalled that migrant children "in a threefold way are defenceless: they are children, they are foreigners, and they have no means to protect themselves. I ask everyone to help those who, for various reasons, are forced to live far from their homeland and are separated from their families."

Yet, amid so much darkness, the light of solidarity is not lacking. Individuals, families, civil institutions and ecclesial communities choose not to pass by on the other side (cf. *Lk 10:29-37*). We think of the families who open the doors of their homes in order to restore to these children the warmth of a family hearth; the educators who serve in reception centers; the volunteers and aid workers who each day devote themselves to healing the invisible wounds of these little ones along migration routes and in our cities. They bear witness through their commitment that love can overcome indifference.

Even just one of these children

Before this tragic reality, my thoughts turn to the words of Jesus that profoundly challenge our consciences: "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" (*Mt 18:5*). It is not a question of numbers or statistics. The Gospel invites us not to calculate: *even one*. Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity. Each is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. *Gen 1:26*); each is a presence of the Lord. Before every migrant child, we are called to make an act of humanity and faith, for we are able to welcome and encounter the Lord. This call becomes even more pressing in the light of another of the Lord's affirmations in the Gospel of Matthew: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (*Mt 25:35*).

Sadly, migrant children are more easily ignored, because they lack adults capable of protecting and supporting them. It is necessary, then, to intervene in their countries of origin in order to remove the causes that compel them to flee, while at the same time offering protection and welcome in the countries of transit and destination. The cry of displaced children rises to God today, just as did the cry heard in the Book of Exodus: "I

have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them" (Ex 3:7–8). God hears their cry and, in order to bring about liberation, he forcefully appeals to the conscience and action of each one of us, just as he did with Moses. We cannot remain indifferent, nor can we become accustomed to such suffering.

An appeal to the responsibility of all

Even just one of these children calls each one of us, *in our personal lives*, to open our eyes and heart to a profound listening to his or her story, fears and dreams, overcoming that detachment which reduces the human person to a statistic that does not directly concern us. It is an invitation to recognize the dignity of each child, even before considering the condition of being a "migrant," and to safeguard his or her fundamental rights: the right to life, education and a standard of living that enables full physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

Even just one of these children calls us, *in the life of the Church*, to transform welcoming from an abstract concept into a stable pastoral practice. We cannot simply delegate this task to institutes or associations endowed with a particular charism. Before the concrete faces that confront us in daily life, the entire Christian community is called to regard these children as its own sons and daughters, and to engage with the concrete story of each one of them. Christian communities should be encouraged to promote the integration of refugees and migrants and to value them as full members of the ecclesial family, fostering new educational and spiritual paths, including personalized ones, which go beyond the mentality of mere assistance. In particular, it is essential to prevent the solitude, isolation and rejection that not infrequently also affect the children of migrants; and to promote opportunities for encounter and integration in which local young people and young migrants can support each other along a path of mutual respect, solidarity and friendship.

Even just one of these children, *within the horizon of the different religions*, reminds us that the vulnerability of the young knows no religious boundaries and unites us in a shared humanitarian and spiritual responsibility. This becomes fertile ground for a concrete interreligious dialogue, in which believers, drawing upon their own sense of transcendence, cooperate in weaving networks of protection. Faith communities are called to create spaces in which every boy and every girl is respected and valued in his or her own cultural identity, thereby preventing the risk of radicalization by extremist groups. Ultimately, to protect a child is to safeguard the divine image imprinted within him or her.

Even just one of these children, *in the context of civil institutions*, calls us to reaffirm the principle of the best interests of the child. Public and private institutions are bound to prioritise the protection and dignity of every single child and adolescent. This requires the adoption of effective legal instruments of protection, the promotion of family reunification, and the prevention of the trauma caused by separation. An urgent change of perspective is needed: the focus of the debate must shift from the mere management of migration to the full and immediate protection of human rights, adopting "a coordinated, supportive and effective response, capable of guaranteeing protection, welcome and genuine opportunities for integration to those who migrate" ([Address to the Spanish Parliament](#), Madrid, 8 June 2026).

Let us entrust migrant and refugee children to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary who, together with Saint Joseph and the child Jesus experienced the cruelty of Herod's violence and the tragedy of exile in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-15). May she accompany their steps and help our communities to become living and credible signs of the Gospel.

From the Vatican, 11 August 2026, Memorial of Saint Clare of Assisi

LEO PP. XIV

Copyright © Dicastery for Communication - Libreria Editrice Vaticana



The HOLY SEE

The Season of Creation which is a month-long time of celebration of prayer and reflection focused on the work of God in our evolving world, ends on

The Feast of St Francis of Assisi

The Laudato Si Committee of St Michael's invites you to join us for a visit to

*The Ngioka Native Plant Nursery Centre at Little Beach
to celebrate.*



Photo supplied by C. Norman

Learn about the cultivation and propagation of our indigenous flora for use in bush regeneration and plantings in our parks and gardens.

**We will assemble at Ngioka 12 Dixon St, Little bay at 11.15 on
Friday, 2nd October 2026.**

We will be given a guided tour of the plant nursery.

Please bring a picnic for a shared lunch at Little Beach after the tour.

Called to

KNOW MORE

CODE OF CANON LAW

LATIN-ENGLISH
EDITION

CODE
OF
CANON
LAW

ENGLISH
TRANSLATION

CODE
OF
CANON
LAW

ENGLISH
TRANSLATION



PRESENTER:
FR MATTHEW MULLER

Vicar General & Canon Lawyer



RSVP TO
MN.SHOR.TN/CALLEDTO20OCT26

HOW IS THE CHURCH ORGANISED?

12-1PM, TUESDAY

20 OCTOBER

DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE

How does the Catholic Church organise itself to carry out its mission in the world? What role does the Code of Canon Law play in the life of the Church, and why does it matter to every Catholic?

In this engaging presentation, Fr Matthew Muller will introduce the Code of Canon Law (*Codex Iuris Canonici*) as the framework that supports the Church's life, governance and mission. Far more than a collection of rules, canon law seeks to foster communion, protect the dignity and rights of the faithful, and ensure that the Church's ministries are exercised with justice, order and pastoral care.

Drawing on practical examples from diocesan and parish life, Fr Matthew will explore how the Church is organised at the universal, diocesan and parish levels, the responsibilities of bishops, priests and lay faithful, and how decision-making and leadership are exercised in service of the Gospel.

Whether you have ever wondered how the Church functions behind the scenes or simply want a deeper understanding of its life and mission, this session offers an accessible introduction to the structures that support the Church's pastoral work and witness in today's world.

CELEBRATE • KNOW • BE



Mission &
Evangelisation



mn.catholic.org.au

Calling for Expressions of Interest – Councils and Advisory Boards

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle warmly invites you to once again journey with us in faith, open dialogue and discernment as we continue to establish and strengthen our new Councils and Advisory Boards.

Following our initial Expressions of Interest process last year, we are now seeking to fill some vacancies on our Councils and Advisory Boards as we build on the strong foundation.

This next phase is an opportunity to broaden participation and ensure our governance reflects the diversity and rich gifts of our diocesan community.

Our renewed governance model honours both civil and Church law, and is grounded in the mission and teachings of the Church.

The Councils and Advisory Boards that have formed play an important role in shaping the future of our Diocese, contributing to decisions that support faithful, sustainable and mission-driven outcomes. Already our Pastoral Council has been discerning our call to mission.

We invite people from across the Diocese who feel called to serve to submit an expression of interest via the Diocesan website and QR code. Link: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/governance-advisory-group-eoi/>

In particular, opportunities exist for those with backgrounds in Governance, Finance Banking and Insurance.

These groups work in a synodal way marked by collaboration, respectful listening and thoughtful conversation.



Join with us - this is a unique opportunity to share your gifts, deepen your engagement in the life of the Church and help shape the path ahead for our Diocese.

VINEYARDS CATHOLIC PARISHES PRESENTS

MERCY & HOPE

Talks on suffering, the Saints, Divine Mercy and more...

WITH PAUL ELARDE & TINAH DE LUCA-TOHI

KURRI PARISH HALL,
102 BARTON STREET,
KURRI KURRI

FRI 23 OCTOBER: 6:15PM - 9PM
SAT 24 OCTOBER: 10AM - 4PM



23
OCT

TALK 1: Finding Meaning in Suffering – Life Crisis Spirituality

Sooner or later life presents something to us that we simply can not cope with. This talk reveals how, using our faith, we can survive the great suffering of a life crisis... for the better!

24
OCT

TALK 2: Two Saints of Mercy – Pope St. John Paul II & St. Faustina

Few saints have had such an enormous impact on the Church in modern times. Find out why Pope St John Paul II saw the message of Divine Mercy as THE special task of his Pontificate, and why along with St Faustina, they are literally transforming people's lives!

TALK 3: Why this Message of Divine Mercy is NEW!

What could be new about God's Mercy? Well, Jesus tells we have not comprehended His mercy. Hear what Jesus has said that reveal unimaginable gifts and mysteries of His Mercy! You won't want to miss this talk!

TESTIMONY by Tina: "Keeping the Faith Through Hard Times"

Tinah is a teacher and mother of twelve children who knows first-hand how hard it is to 'keep the faith' during difficult times. In 2012 she was told that her perfectly healthy fifteen-year-old son Emmanuel had an incurable brain disease and for the next eighteen months, had to watch his slow decline. Her son Emmanuel inspired others as he leaned on his faith and trust in God to battle his illness. She has an amazing story to tell that will touch your heart and inspire your faith.

DIVINE MERCY STALL
AVAILABLE ON
SATURDAY - CASH
ONLY

SCAN HERE TO
REGISTER



MORE INFO
PROVIDED ON
REGISTRATION FORM.
CONTACT YVONNE -
0450323206

