

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-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 11 October 2026

We acknowledge the Worimi people – the traditional custodians of this land.
I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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 NO MASS
Thursday NO MASS
Friday NO MASS

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.

CLERGY RETREAT

Deacon Gerard and Fr. Anthony will attend the Clergy Retreat from Sunday
11 October to Friday 16 October. **THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY MASSES.**

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.

CROATIAN MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON 18 OCTOBER AT 4.00 PM

Fr Ivica Pečnik will be visiting our Parish on Sunday, 18 October 2026 and
celebrating Croatian Mass at 4.00pm. ALL WELCOME.

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 (8.00am-12noon)

On Saturday our Church will have **NO POWER (Outage)** from 8.00am to 2.00pm.

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.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL – 18 OCTOBER 2026

For Yamikani*, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice.

But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children.

**Name changed for privacy.*

To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/>

Our Parish Appeal will be held on World Mission Sunday 18 October 2026.

NEXT SUNDAY
29th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A

First Reading
Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

Responsorial Psalm
Give the Lord glory
and honour.

Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel
Matthew 22:15-21

PRAYERS PLEASE

In your mercy, please pray for those who have died recently Eddie Davis, Ian Henderson, Peter Manning, Yvette Anselmet, Sally Lopena and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Peter Dobson, Carmel Simon, John Scott, Thomas and Kathleen Ryan, Robin Wall, Trish Monaghan, Ray Tobin, Shelia Ann Featonby-Cole, Enid Coker 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, Johny 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.

Caritas Australia launches emergency appeal for Nepal flood relief



Caritas Australia has launched an emergency appeal to support communities devastated by catastrophic flash flooding in northern Nepal, where entire settlements have been swept away following a sudden flood surge through the Bhote Koshi river. More than 150 people have died, with hundreds of people still missing, including 34 Australians.

The flood has caused widespread destruction with roads, bridges, homes, markets, hydropower facilities and other critical infrastructure have been severely damaged, leaving communities cut off and in urgent need of assistance. Caritas is appealing for public support as local partners work with authorities and communities to assess damage and identify the most urgent humanitarian needs.

Priority needs identified by humanitarian responders include emergency shelter, food assistance, household essentials, safe

water, sanitation and hygiene support, healthcare and psychosocial assistance.

Caritas Australia Humanitarian Manager Sally Thomas said the scale of the disaster is still emerging, but the humanitarian needs are already significant.

"Families have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods in a matter of minutes. As floodwaters recede, communities are facing an enormous recovery challenge and will need support to access food, shelter, clean water and other essentials."

"The Caritas network is already working alongside affected communities and local authorities to assess needs and help ensure assistance reaches those most impacted. We are asking Australians to stand with the people of Nepal during this devastating time."

According to early assessments, thousands of households may have been affected across multiple districts. Search and rescue operations continue in extremely challenging conditions, with damaged roads and communications hampering access to affected areas.

To support Caritas Australia's Nepal Floods Appeal,
visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal
or
call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Media contact:
Tara Harvey 0484 002 021

tara.harvey@caritas.org.au
or
caritasmedia@caritas.org.au



Reach out. Give life.

ONE IN CHRIST
UNITED IN
Mission
100 YEARS OF WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

**Carry Christ's Love
to Malawi's Children**

catholicmission.org.au/united





AR - DE - EN - ES - FR - HR - IT - PL - PT - ZH_CN - ZH_TW

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE 100th WORLD MISSION DAY 2026

[18 October 2026]

[\[Multimedia\]](#)

One in Christ, united in mission

Dear brothers and sisters,

For World Mission Day 2026, which marks the centenary of a celebration established by [Pius XI](#) that is very dear to the Church, I have chosen the theme “One in Christ, united in mission.” Following the Jubilee Year, I wish to encourage the whole Church to continue its missionary journey with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit. This requires hearts united in Christ reconciled communities and, in everyone, a willingness to cooperate with generosity and trust.

As we reflect on being *one in Christ* and *united in mission*, let us allow ourselves to be guided and inspired by divine grace, “to renew in ourselves the fire of our missionary vocation” and advance together in the commitment to evangelization, in this “new missionary age” in the history of the Church ([Homily, Jubilee of the Missionary World and of Migrants](#), 5 October 2025).

1. *One in Christ – Missionary disciples united in him and with our brothers and sisters*

The mystery of union with Christ lies at the heart of mission. Before his Passion, Jesus prayed to the Father, "that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us" (*Jn* 17:21). These words reveal Jesus' deepest desire, as well as the identity of the Church as a community of his disciples. That is, a communion that flows from the Trinity, and continues to be sustained by the Trinity. A communion at the service of fraternity among all human beings and harmony with all creation.

Being a Christian is not primarily about practices or ideas; it is a life in union with Christ, in which we share in his filial relationship with the Father in the Holy Spirit. It means abiding in Christ, like branches on the vine (cf. *Jn* 15:4), immersed in the life of the Trinity. This union gives rise to mutual communion among believers and is the source of all missionary fruitfulness. Indeed, just as Saint John Paul II taught, "communion represents both the source and the fruit of mission" (Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, 32).

In this context, the Church's primary missionary responsibility is to renew and sustain spiritual and fraternal unity among its members. In many situations, we encounter conflicts, polarization, misunderstandings and a lack of mutual trust. When this occurs even within our communities, it undermines our witness. The evangelizing mission that Christ entrusted to his disciples requires, above all, hearts that are reconciled and eager for communion. Consequently, it is important to intensify ecumenical efforts with all Christian Churches, building upon the opportunities arising from the joint celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

Last but not least, being "one in Christ" calls us to keep our gaze fixed on the Lord, so that he may truly be at the center of our lives and communities, the center of every word, action and interpersonal relationship, leading us to say with amazement: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (*Gal* 2:20). By constantly listening to his word and through the grace of the Sacraments, it will be possible for us to become living stones in the Church. Today, the Church is called to take up the fundamental themes of the Second Vatican Council and the subsequent Papal Magisterium, in particular that of Pope Francis. In fact, as Saint Paul says, "we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord" (*2 Cor* 4:5). For this reason, I reiterate the words of Saint Paul VI: "There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed" (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 22). This process of genuine evangelization begins in the heart of every Christian in order to reach all of humanity.

Therefore, the more united we are in Christ, the better able we will be to carry out together the mission that he entrusts to us.

2. United in mission – That the world may believe in Christ the Lord

The unity of disciples is not an end in itself; it is directed towards mission. Jesus states this clearly: "So that the world may believe that you have sent me" (Jn 17:21). It is through the witness of a reconciled, fraternal and united community that the proclamation of the Gospel acquires its full communicative power.

From this perspective, it is worth recalling the motto of Blessed Paolo Manna, "The entire Church for the conversion of the whole world," which succinctly expresses the ideal that inspired the establishment of the Pontifical Missionary Union in 1916. On its 110th anniversary, I convey my gratitude and my blessing for its commitment to inspiring and forming the missionary spirit of priests, consecrated persons and lay faithful, promoting the unity of all evangelizing efforts. In fact, no baptized person is exempt from or indifferent to mission: everyone, each according to their own vocation and condition of life, participates in the great work that Christ has entrusted to his Church. As Pope Francis repeatedly reminded us, proclaiming the Gospel is an action that is always harmonious, communal and synodal.

For this reason, unity in mission means safeguarding and nurturing the spirituality of communion and missionary cooperation. By daily fostering this attitude, divine grace gradually teaches us to see our brothers and sisters through the eyes of faith. We also learn to recognize joyfully the good that the Spirit inspires in each person, to embrace diversity as a treasure, to bear one another's burdens and always to seek the unity that comes from above. Indeed, we all share in one mission in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Eph 4:5-6). This spirituality constitutes the daily expression of missionary discipleship. It helps us to recover a universal vision of the Church's evangelizing mission, and to overcome a lack of coordinated efforts and the creation of factions among the followers of the one Lord — such as "I belong to Paul," "I to Apollos" (cf. 1 Cor 1:10-12).

Needless to say, missionary unity should not be understood as uniformity, but rather as the convergence of different charisms for the same purpose, namely to make Christ's love visible and to invite everyone to encounter him. Evangelization is achieved when local communities cooperate with one another and when cultural, spiritual and liturgical differences are fully and harmoniously expressed in the same faith. I therefore encourage all institutions in the Church to strengthen their sense of ecclesial missionary communion and to develop creative and concrete ways of cooperating with one another for and in the mission.

In this regard, I would like to thank the Pontifical Mission Societies for their service to missionary cooperation, which I experienced with gratitude during my ministry in Peru. These Societies — Propagation of the Faith, Holy Childhood, Saint Peter the Apostle, Sain Peter the Apostle and Pontifical Missionary Union — continue to nurture and form missionary awareness for the faithful of all ages, and to promote a network of prayer and charity that connects communities throughout the world. Here, it is worth noting that the founder of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot, established the Living Rosary two hundred years ago. Even today it continues to bring together many of the faithful throughout the world to pray for every spiritual and missionary need. It is also worth remembering that, following a proposal from the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, Pius XI established World Mission Day in 1926. The annual offerings collected on this day are distributed by the Society, on behalf of the Pope, to support the various needs of the Church's mission. The four Societies, therefore, as a whole and each in its own specificity, still play a valuable role for the entire Church. They are a living sign of unity and ecclesial missionary communion. I invite everyone to work with them in a spirit of gratitude.

3. Mission to love – Proclaiming, living and sharing God's faithful love

If unity is the condition of mission, love is its essence. The Good News that we are sent to proclaim to the world is not an abstract ideal; it is the Gospel of God's faithful love, which became flesh in the face and life of Jesus Christ.

The mission of the disciples and the Church as a whole is to continue the mission of Christ in the Holy Spirit: a mission born of love, lived in love, and leading to love. In fact, the Lord himself, in his great prayer to the Father before his Passion, after invoking unity among his disciples, concludes: "so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and in them" (*Jn* 17:26). Impelled by the love of Christ, the Apostles then went out to evangelize for Christ (cf. *2 Cor* 5:14). In the same way, throughout the centuries, multitudes of Christians — martyrs, confessors and missionaries — have given their lives to make this divine love known to the world. Thus, guided by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of love, the Church's evangelizing mission will continue until the end of time.

I would like to express my special gratitude to today's *ad gentes* missionaries. Like Saint Francis Xavier, they have left their homeland, their families and all sense of security in order to proclaim the Gospel and bring Christ and his love to places that are often challenging, poor, conflict-ridden or culturally distant. Despite adversity and human limitations, they continue to give themselves joyfully, because they know that Christ himself, and his Gospel, are the greatest treasures we can offer. Through their perseverance, they demonstrate that God's love transcends all barriers. The world still needs these courageous witnesses of Christ, and ecclesial communities still need new missionary vocations. We must always keep them close to our hearts and continually pray to the Father for them. May he grant us the gift of young people and adults who are willing to leave everything behind to follow Christ on the path of evangelization even to the ends of the earth!

Filled with admiration for men and women missionaries, I make a special appeal to the whole Church to join them in the mission of evangelization through the witness of our lives in Christ, through prayer and through our contributions to the missions. As Saint Francis of Assisi said, "Love is not loved," and we look to him in a special way on the eight hundredth anniversary of his passing to heaven. Let us find inspiration in his desire to live in the love of the Lord and to transmit it to those both near and far, because, as he said, "this love Who hath loved us much is much to be loved" (Saint Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, *The Life of Saint Francis*, chap. IX, 1; *Fonti Francescane*, 1161). Let us also draw inspiration from the zeal of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, who declared that she would continue her mission even after death: "I shall desire in heaven the same thing as I do now on earth: to love Jesus and to make him loved" (*Letter 220 to l'Abbé Bellière*, 24 February 1897).

Inspired by these testimonies, let us all commit to contributing to the great mission of evangelization — which is always a work of love —according to our own vocation and the gifts we have received. Your prayers and practical support, particularly on World Mission Day, will be a great help in bringing the Gospel of God's love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need. Every gift, no matter how small, becomes a meaningful act of missionary communion. I renew my heartfelt gratitude "for everything you will do to help me help missionaries throughout the world" (*[Video Message for World Mission Day 2025](#)*, 19 October 2025). To foster spiritual communion, I give you my blessing with this simple prayer:

Holy Father, make us one in Christ, rooted in his love that unites and renews. May all members of the Church be united in mission, docile to the Holy Spirit, courageous in bearing witness to the Gospel, proclaiming and daily embodying your faithful love for all creatures.

Bless all missionary men and women, support them in their efforts, and watch over them in hope!

Mary, Queen of Missions, accompany our work of evangelization in every corner of the earth: make us instruments of peace, and grant that the whole world may recognize in Christ the light that saves. Amen.

From the Vatican, 25 January 2026, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul

LEO PP. XIV

Copyright © Dicastery for Communication - Libreria Editrice Vaticana



The HOLY SEE