

Saint Michael's Catholic Parish



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www.nelsonbaycatholicchurch.com
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A 21 December 2025

We acknowledge the Worimi people – the traditional custodians of this land.
Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

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.

IN CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Our Church is equipped with a defibrillator in the event of a cardiac arrest. It is located on the left-hand side in the piety store. It is designed to be used by everyone.



CHRISTMAS MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

We are calling for volunteers to assist in the ministries at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass and the Christmas Day Mass. Please place your name on the sheet available at the entrance of the Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Vigil – Wednesday, 24th December 2025,
5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Christmas Day – Thursday, 25th December 2025,
7.00am and 8.30am.

NO MASS on FRIDAY 26 December 2025

**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 AND DIANNE MARICIC**

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We would like to share this special Day with you at a lunch to be hosted by the Uniting Church Salamander and sponsored by the St Vincent de Paul.

- **ON CHRISTMAS DAY 25 December, 12.00 midday at Uniting Church Salamander Way**
- We can provide transport.
- Let us know if you would like to come.
- There will be a clipboard at the entrance of the Church near holy good store to put your name or tell your contact friend.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will close from 3pm 24 December 2025 and re-open at 9am on Wednesday 7 January 2026. The bulletins for Christmas, 28/12 and 4/1 will be printed prior to the office closing. If you have any items, please send them by 10.00am 24 December 2025.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Donations support the Priests and Bishop of our diocese – active and retired. Envelopes are on the entry table.

PIETY SHOP

Christmas Stock Now Available!

Our parish Piety Shop is ready to help you celebrate the season! Come browse our wide selection of Christmas gifts, decorations, books and Bible and religious items - perfect for family, friends, or your own home.

PRAY FOR THE BONDI BEACH ATTACK

Our hearts are broken by the tragedy at Bondi Beach. We are praying for all those affected, trusting that God is near to the broken-hearted and brings comfort, peace, and hope in the midst of this tragedy.

NEW YEARS EVE AND NEW YEARS DAY MASS

New Years Eve – Wednesday, 31 December 2025 Mass 9.15am

New Years Day – Thursday, 1 January 2026 Mass 8.00am

NO MASS ON FRIDAY, 2 January 2026

NEXT SUNDAY

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND
JOSEPH YEAR A**

First Reading

Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Responsorial Psalm

Happy are those who fear
the Lord and walk in his
ways

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

PRAYERS PLEASE

In your mercy, please pray for those who have died recently: Christine Anne Hawkins and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Rose Lukey, Rufina and Faustino Bandilla, Keith Staples, Neville Crowe, John Robertson, Setna Mulvihill, deceased members of the Mulvihill and Culligan families and Elmer Quinajon and for the sick in our parish: Joe Garreffa, Brenda and Brian Tucker, Damien Brinley, Sarlic Trumbli, Maureen Noonan, Clemente Quinajon, David Berkeley, Artemia Sheather, 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.

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Monday, 15 December 2025

Jewish Community in our Prayers

The tragic and targeted attack on the Jewish community at Bondi Beach, as they gathered to begin their celebrations of the religious festival of Hanukkah, has shocked and saddened us all. Such hatred and violence have no place in our community.

We stand in solidarity and support for all in the Jewish community. I call for all to pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters, for those killed, those injured and all those impacted by these traumatic events.

I give deep thanks to the brave first responders and our emergency services.

While we as Christians were lighting candles on our Advent wreaths and celebrating Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, the Jewish community were lighting candles to begin their celebration of Hanukkah, an occasion that should have been a joyful gathering.

As we reflect at this time - a time when in the Christian community we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth, a birth into a Jewish family - I am reminded this was God's choice for his Son and God does not do things without good reason.

Together, we must live in mutual respect.

I know our leaders and governments will do all in their power at this difficult time to ensure that all Australians, and particularly Jewish Australians, can go about their daily lives without fear.

Let us pray together for peace: O God, creator of the world, who first revealed your love and salvation for humankind in and through the Jewish community, and who has revealed that peacemakers are to be called your children, grant we pray, that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone ensures true and lasting peace. Amen.

With every blessing.

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



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Bishop Michael's Christmas Message

Each Christmas we hear the angels' song to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward all." These words remind us of the night when heaven touched earth, when God took on human flesh and made His home among us.

The wonder of Christmas is that God chose to make His home on earth, entering our world in the person of Jesus. He entered our lives not as a distant ruler but as a child, born into the ordinary and the imperfect. In doing so, He showed us that every home, no matter how small, simple, or messy, can be a place where divine love dwells. The manger reminds us that God is never far away. He comes to where we are and makes even our simplest moments sacred.

Christmas reminds us that God's home is with His people, and that we are called to create that same sense of welcome in our own homes and communities.

This is what we celebrate as we gather: in a house, in a Church, around a table, in a heart that longs for belonging. For to belong is the deepest form of coming home. It is to be known, to be invited and to be embraced.

Home is where we don't have to pretend to hide our struggles, our past, or our fears. It is where we can breathe and bring our full selves: the joyful moments, the broken ones, the unanswered questions, the hopes we carry quietly in our heart.

In the birth of Christ, God says to each of us: You are loved. You belong. You are home. The birth of Jesus is God's way of saying to all humanity: Welcome home.

In recent years, the world has known what it is like when relationships fracture, when the place many once called home feels distant or even unreachable. We have witnessed war and unrest, heard of communities torn apart and felt the uncertainty of a world that seems increasingly polarised and fragile.

Sadly, we have recently witnessed this on our own shores at Bondi Beach and seen what harm and devastation can be caused when hatred rather than

respect reigns in people's hearts. With heavy hearts we acknowledge the Australians who recently lost their lives to this senseless antisemitic violence at Bondi.

In our own lives, too, we may have faced seasons of change. We may have moved house, changed jobs, lost loved ones, or simply felt too far away from where we thought we should be.

Yet Christmas reminds us that the home we seek is first of all found in God's love. The infant Jesus, born into simplicity and vulnerability, speaks to every human heart: come, rest, remain in me, for you are beloved.

Whichever table you find yourself at this Christmas, you might set an extra place. To leave room for a visitor or stranger. To say: there is space for you here too. You are welcome. You belong.

As we light the candles, sing carols, share meals and laughter, let us remember: the glory of Christmas shines brightest in our welcome. In the way we open our doors and our hearts.

So to every family, every household and every single one of you: Welcome home. Welcome to the place where you are loved and accepted. Welcome to the embrace of Christ and his Church community.

May the place where you gather be one of hope. And may the peace of the newborn Saviour dwell with you now and always.

I wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas.