



Catholic Diocese  
OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

"That They May All Be One." ~ A humble service with a smile~



'Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve.' (Mt 20:28)

## All Saints Catholic Home - Blackbutt South

### Parish Grand Jubilee Year 2025-2026

#### LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

##### Weekday Mass

Tuesday	9:30AM Adamstown
Wednesday	7:00AM Kotara
	9:30AM Adamstown
Thursday	9:30AM Cardiff
Friday	9:15AM Kotara
Saturday	9:00AM Kotara (1st Saturday)
<b>Sunday Mass</b>	
Saturday (Vigil)	5:30PM Kotara (DST)
Sunday	8:00AM Adamstown
	9:30AM Cardiff
<b>Adoration</b>	5:30PM Kotara (Sundays)

#### INFORMATION

##### Churches

St Columba's Church	153A Lockyer Street ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289
St Kevin's Church	228 Main Road CARDIFF NSW 2285
St Philip's Church	31 Vista Parade KOTARA NSW 2289

##### Presbytery

Parish Priest	Fr Joseph Figurado
Postal Address	31 Vista Parade KOTARA NSW 2289
Presbytery Phone	02 4957 5949
Mobile	0452 280 687

##### Parish Office

Office Team	Mrs Liza Ruitenbach Ms Justine Atkinson Thi Trang Le (Sr Lucie)
Sacramental Coordinator	Thi Trang Le (Sr Lucie)
Street Address	230 Main Road
Postal Address	PO Box 233 CARDIFF NSW 2285
Office Phone	02 4954 0977
Email	<a href="mailto:asbsparish@mn.catholic.org.au">asbsparish@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Parish Website	<a href="http://www.allsaintsblackbuttsouth.org.au">www.allsaintsblackbuttsouth.org.au</a>

##### Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday	9:00AM to 3:00PM
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##### Parish Schools

St Columba's	Lockyer Street ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289
St Kevin's School	226 Main Road CARDIFF NSW 2285
St James' School	30 Vista Parade KOTARA NSW 2289

##### Colleges

Trinity College	Park Avenue ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289
St Paul's College	70 Primrose Street BOORAGUL NSW 2284

##### Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Bishop	Bishop Michael Kennedy
Street Address	841 Hunter Street NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2300
Postal Address	PO Box 780 NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Phone Number	02 4979 1200
Email	<a href="mailto:chancery@mn.catholic.org.au">chancery@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.mn.catholic.org.au">www.mn.catholic.org.au</a>

#### MASS AT ALL SAINTS PARISH

##### Silence Before Mass

We ask that you please observe 4-5 minutes of silence before Mass to create a prayerful atmosphere. This allows fellow parishioners to focus on their prayers and lift up the needs of their families and friends.

##### Communion from the Chalice

A person with symptoms of cold, flu, COVID or other virus should not share the chalice with others. In the Catholic Church, intinction by communicants is not permitted.

Whatever may remain of the Blood of Christ after Holy Communion must be consumed immediately by the priest, deacon, acolyte or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. No-one should be pressured or coerced to do this if they have reasonable concerns about it.

##### Bulletins

Please ensure all items for the bulletin are received at the Parish Office by noon on Tuesday. Email subject - Bulletin. **Please take your bulletin home after Mass.**

##### Children's Worksheets

Each weekend there will be a new Children's Liturgy worksheet made available at the Church entrance.

##### Keeping Each Other Safe and Well

Remember to stay at home or use a mask if you are not well. If you need to sneeze or cough, remember to do so into your elbow.

##### Parking at Kotara Church

When the car park at St Philip's Church is full it is not permissible to park on any grassed areas. Please note **there are now "NO PARKING" signs** on Vista Parade from the church to Grayson Avenue. Fines will apply if booked.

#### REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA



Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time. © Dianne Bergant CSA

## PRAYER INTENTIONS



### We remember in our prayers...

**Sick:** Joseph Mackenzie, Lexie Martin, Curtis Ridgeway, Carlo Rossi, Antonetta (Nettie) Marten, Sr Clare McCudden, Jack Schofield, Cherie St Vincent, Martin Pavitt, Leonie Pickett, Karen Curran, Jan Hobson, Lewis Peel (Purcell), Loris Jackson, Linda McDonald, Chris Patsan, Dorota Bakowska, Gae Alderton, Alexander Klein, Maria Kanonczuk, Jarrad Bryant, Tom Campbell, John Trinh.  
(Once the person is no longer in need of prayer, kindly inform the Parish Office).

**Recently Deceased:** Peter Beck

**Anniversaries:** Aleksandra (Sandra) Ogradnik, Patrick Feenan

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen*

Mass Intention envelopes are available at the church entrance and can be placed onto the first collection plate. Mass Intentions for publication may be written on a Mass Intention envelope, or by email, or phone; by 12:00PM Tuesday each week ahead. Please write details clearly to avoid errors. A reminder that you need the permission of the person, or family, to enable us to publish names.

### Pope's Prayer Intentions

You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

### December Intention is for Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Parish contact is Sr Lucie usually on Thursdays 8:00AM to 4:00PM

P: 02 4954 0977 E: [asbsparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:asbsparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

Email Subject: Sacramental Program

## ADVENT WREATH

### Lighting of the Third Candle

#### Third Sunday of Advent wreath lighting, Year A

#### Presider:

*The Presider, or an assistant, lights the third candle, which can be named the Saints' Candle to call to mind all the saints who share the life of Christ by being baptised into his Body the Church.*

**V.** Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah who proclaims 'Look, your God is coming, he is coming to save you.' (First Reading)

**R. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**V.** Lord Jesus, you come among us now as the light of the world. St James urges us to be patient and not to lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon. (Second Reading)

**R. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**V.** Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory and raise the dead to new life. (Gospel)

**R. Come, Lord Jesus.**



© Pastoral Liturgy

## FEAST DAYS

23 Dec Saint John of Kenty, Priest  
25 Dec The nativity of the Lord  
26 Dec Saint Stephen, the First Martyr  
27 Dec Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

### Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

First: Is 7:10-14  
Psalm: Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10  
Second: Rom 1:1-7  
Acclamation: Mt 1:23  
Gospel: Mt 1:18-24

## PARISH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Parishioners and visitors are invited to stay for a cuppa and a chat after Vigil / Sunday Mass:

**Adamstown** - second Sunday of the month in the Adamstown Church Foyer.

**Cardiff** - second Sunday of the month in the MacKillop Room. Also Thursdays after Mass.

**Kotara** - third Saturday of the month in the Kotara Church Hall.

### Craft Group

All are welcome to share companionship and craft on Friday mornings at the meeting room at St Philip's Kotara between 10:00AM and 12:00PM. Come for a cuppa and good humour.

## ADORATION

Adoration is available on Sundays at Kotara Church at 5:00PM in Wintertime and 5:30PM in Summertime. The first half hour of Adoration is in complete silence and during the last fifteen minutes there are hymns and supplication of prayers. All are welcome.

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Christian Meditation is held at 6:00PM every Tuesday at St Philip's Church Kotara. All are welcome. Enquiries: Anne C E [annecuskelly@hotmail.com](mailto:annecuskelly@hotmail.com).

## SAFEGUARDING

The parish of *All Saints Blackbutt South* has an enduring commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available at the church entrance. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding via E [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or P 02 4979 1390.

For more information: W [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)  
Complaints <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/making-a-complaint/>

*Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility,  
but it starts with ME!*



## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word – All Saints Blackbutt South Parish. Families are warmly invited to bring their primary school-aged children to our weekly Children's Liturgy of the Word.

- Saturday 5:00PM – St Philip's Kotara Info: Jessica M
- Sunday 8:00AM – St Columba's Adamstown Info: Adrienne S
- Sunday 9:30AM – St Kevin's Cardiff Info: Volunteer needed

Lessons are run by trained facilitators with current Working with Children Checks, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for all. No registration needed—just come along and enjoy!

## MINISTRY ROSTERS

14 DECEMBER 2025	KOTARA 5:30PM	ADAMSTOWN 8:00AM	CARDIFF 9:30AM
<b>Commentator</b>	Christine Sheppard	Ainara Alonso Mateos	School Family Mass
<b>Readers</b>	Jessica Moulder   Peter Cunningham	Diana Hannigan   Paula O'Neill	
<b>Presentation of the Gifts</b>	Donna & Harper Morgan	Kathy Kelly & Bernadette Maher	
<b>** Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Narelle Heard, Siobhan Farrell & Bernard Burgess	Stan Heaney, Narelle Smith & Paul Smith	Paul Gleeson, Elizabeth Doyle & Sharon Murphy
21 DECEMBER 2025	KOTARA 5:30PM	ADAMSTOWN 8:00AM	CARDIFF 9:30AM
<b>Commentator</b>	Emma South	Barry Bourke	Paul Gleeson
<b>Readers</b>	Faye Robertson   Bernard Burgess	Paul Smith   Basia Wedesweiler	Sharon Murphy   Cathy Waugh
<b>Presentation of the Gifts</b>	Lakin Family	Langworthy Family	Lerch Family
<b>** Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Giavanna Angeli, Faye Robertson & Donna Morgan	Vickie Pettett, Preciosa Winter & Albert Erzetich	Elizabeth Doyle, Angela Hall & Mark Wilmore

\*\* Please note the rostered EMoHC is needed when there is a priest only. If a Deacon is present, then he is the other Eucharistic Minister.

## PARISH NEWS

### Gratitude and thank you

To the Parishioners and Parents of St Kevin's Parish School I would like to say thank you for the support and prayers you have given me over the past 13 years as Principal of St Kevin's school. It has been indeed an honour and a privilege to lead the school community, especially as it is also my local Parish community. The parents and parishioners have always been supportive of everything the school has done over the years and together we have been an amazing village nurturing the mind, heart and spirit of our youngest parishioners - our students. Together we have celebrated sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. The weekly Thursday Parish Mass has been a special time to connect on a more personal note between Parish and school, and our school led Masses each term have been truly blessed with great participation and engagement by all. My farewell Mass on Thursday November 27 was one I will treasure. To have so many Parishioners and parents come to celebrate with me was very humbling. I also thank Father Joseph for his very kind words and acknowledgment of my long career in Catholic Education. St Kevin's community as part of the bigger All Saints Blackbutt South Parish, should be very proud of its local primary school and its role in evangelising and spreading the Good News to all. Thank you everyone. It has been a blast!

Mary-Anne Jennings  
Retiring Principal St Kevins Cardiff

### Welcome Home Video

Christmas is an invitation to come home to the loving heart of God. <https://mn.catholic.org.au/welcomehome/>

### Advent Reconciliation Service

There will be an Advent Reconciliation Service held on Tuesday 16 December at 6:30PM. All are invited. We need seven (7) volunteers to read a short verse and light one of 7 candles during this Liturgy at St Philip's Church Kotara. If you can assist, please let the office know via email or phone.

### Advent Group

An Advent Group gathers weekly on Thursdays after the 9:30AM Mass at St Kevin's Cottage. All welcome. Please bring your copy of 'The Promise'. Enquiries: Kath S M 0421 996 563.

### Advent Reflection Books

The Promise is a beautifully presented 88-page book of daily reflections, available at our Parish Office and churches for \$7.50.

### Christmas Volunteers

Calling for volunteers to assist at our Christmas Masses. Please add your name to the modified sheet at the church entrance.

### Volunteer Rosters 2026

Volunteer rosters for 2026 are now available, and have been emailed to volunteers. Hard copies can also be picked up at the church. If you are new to the parish or ministry and would like to volunteer, or if you would like to come off a roster, please let the office know. Newcomers need to register via <https://mn.catholic.org.au/about/working-in-the-diocese/volunteer/>

### School Graduation Masses

St Kevin's Cardiff - Parish/School/Family Mass and Year 6 Graduation and Farewell Mass is on Sunday 14 December. Join in for morning tea afterwards.

### Kotara Morning Tea Cancelled

There will not be a cup of tea after Mass at Kotara on 20 December, as we celebrated after mass on the 6 December.

### Christmas Collections and Offering Envelopes

There will be one collection taken up at Christmas Masses which will be divided equally to the 1st and 2nd Collection. Christmas Offerings help support the Clergy.

### St Vincent de Paul 2025 Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your donations, prayers and continuing support.

### Calendars and Cards

Columban Calendars @ \$10.00 and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards @ \$7.00/packet of 10 will be available at the table outside the Kotara Church from Saturday.

### Christian Meditation

Christian Meditation will recommence at 6:00PM on 6 January 2026.

### Parish Family Groups

The Passionist Family Groups provide an extended family for all who wish to belong. Everyone is welcome to join.

**Greensleeves** Enquiries: Craig & Liz Abbs 0412 825 383.

**Mellow Yellow** Enquiries: Sharon E [smu93562@bigpond.net.au](mailto:smu93562@bigpond.net.au)

**Rainbow** Planning day for 2026 on Sunday 18 January 2026, 11:30AM at Kotara Church Hall. Lunch BBQ- please reply with any dietary requirements! Bring your own drinks. Enquiries: Christine M 0403 696 944 or Kerina M 0409 448 255.

**Red Rovers** Enquiries: Maree M 0412 688 685.

### Musicians Reminder

Musicians are reminded to send in their music lists to the office for Parish copyright reporting.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Sacramental Program Survey

Dear Parishioners,

A working group has recently been established to review our current Sacramental processes across the Diocese. The goal is to identify how best to support both those participating in the programs and the facilitators who lead them.

To assist with this, we invite participants and facilitators in Sacramental programs, to complete a short survey to gather insights into how these programs are delivered. The feedback collected will help shape future diocesan support.

Please use the links below to access the survey appropriate to your circumstance to give feedback about your experiences. Please note that the surveys will close on **19 December**.

#### Survey Links:

- Participants in the Sacramental programs - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NBWRBK9>
- Parents of participants - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S759LTP>
- Facilitators of the Sacramental programs - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S7NL7TS>
- Individuals who have taken part in the RCIA program - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S9JFVK7>

### Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross: A Conversation with Bishop Michael

Share the stories of our migrant communities. Come and be a part of a hope-filled conversation around the future of multi-cultural ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Join us Friday 19 December, 2:00PM-4:00PM at Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West. To read more go to: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/a-conversation-with-bishop-michael-on-the-migrant-jubilee-cross-pilgrimage/>



LITURGY	DATE	TIME	CHURCH
RECONCILIATION	Tuesday 16 December	6:30PM	St Philips' Church KOTARA
CHRISTMAS NIGHT	Wednesday 24 December	6:30PM	St Philips' Church KOTARA
CHRISTMAS DAWN	Thursday 25 December	8:00AM	St Columba's Church ADAMSTOWN
CHRISTMAS DAY	Thursday 25 December	9:30AM	St Kevins' Church CARDIFF



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

### Entrance Antiphon

Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

### First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**  
*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

### Second Reading

James 5:7-10

**A reading from the letter of St James**

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia.

### Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Communion Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

