

2026
Magdalene
AWARDS



INFORMATION PACK 2026

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About the Magdalene Award

The Magdalene Award recognises a woman who embodies the courage, leadership, and faithfulness of Mary Magdalene—the first witness to the Risen Christ and known as “the apostle to the apostles”.

The Award affirms a woman living in and committed to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland–Newcastle whose life and service reflect Gospel values and the spirit of Mary Magdalene.

The 2026 Award recipient will receive the perpetual statue for the year, along with a spiritual nourishment opportunity (such as a retreat/ faith formation experience or bookshop voucher) to an agreed value. All nominees will receive a perpetual pin.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be **aged 18 years or over**.
- Be an **active member of a Parish** in the Diocese of Maitland–Newcastle.
- Have made a **positive contribution** in decision making, leadership, and/or ministry within the Parish or Diocese in the last 2 years.
- Actively contribute in a **voluntary** capacity to Parish or Diocesan life.

Additionally:

- The benefit of the work done must be for the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan community.
- Women may be nominated in multiple years.
- Diocesan employees are eligible only for their voluntary contribution, not paid work.

Background

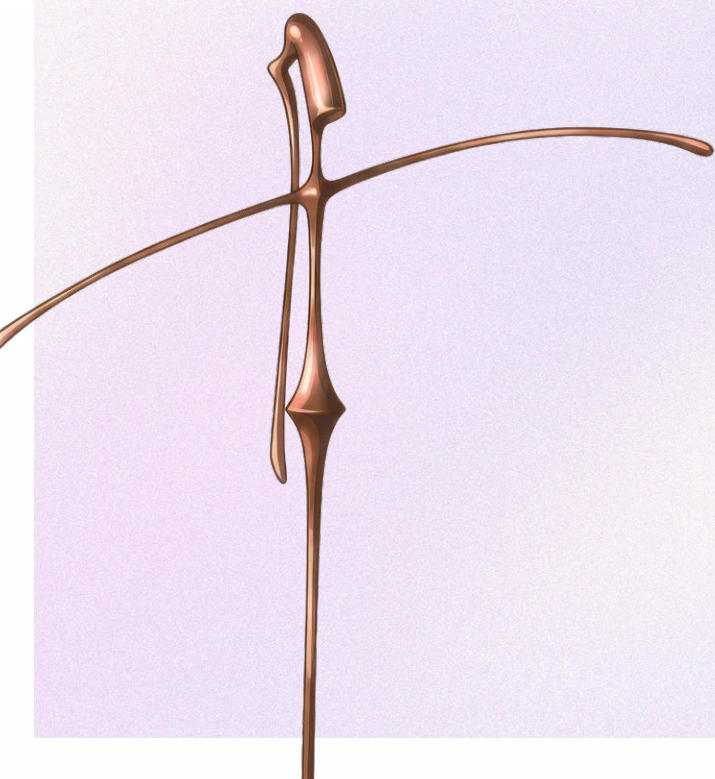
In 2000, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference established the Council for Australian Catholic Women. Following local consultation in 2014, the Council inaugurated the Magdalene Award in 2015 as an annual recognition of women's contribution to Church life.

In 2020, Bishop Bill Wright commissioned the Diocesan Council for Women to continue fostering women's participation and leadership across the Diocese.

After a four year pause due to COVID 19, Bishop Michael Kennedy endorsed the relaunched Award in 2024.

Key Dates and Presentation

- **Nominations close:** Monday 8 June 2026 (late submissions cannot be accepted).
- **Presentation:** Commencing with Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday 26 July 2026 at 9:30am, with Bishop Michael Kennedy presiding.
- **Invitations** will be sent to all nominees, nominators and referees to attend. Nominees may elect to invite their family and friends to attend.



How to nominate?

Any member of the Diocesan community may submit a nomination with the nominee's permission.

To nominate, you must:

- Complete the Nomination Form.
- Address each of the three Award Criteria which are strictly limited to 200 words per question.
- Obtain the Nominee's signed consent.
- Include the signed Image Release Form.
- Provide contact details for two referees, including:
 - A Parish Priest, Deacon or
 - A School Principal or Assistant Principal
- Ensure all referees have given permission to being contacted.

Tips for Nominating

- ▶ Address the Award Criteria directly and succinctly.
- ▶ Stay within the word limit (in fairness to all nominees, excessive responses beyond the word limit will not be read).

Review Process

A Magdalene Award Review Panel will assess all nominations. The Panel comprises:

- The Bishop or his delegate
- A Non-Voting Panel Coordinator
- Three independent representatives of the Diocesan Community.

Submitting your Nomination

Email: kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au
or

Post: Kate Crncevic
C/- Mission & Evangelisation
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
841 Hunter Street
Newcastle West NSW 2302

Before Monday 8 June 2026

**LATE NOMINATIONS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt.

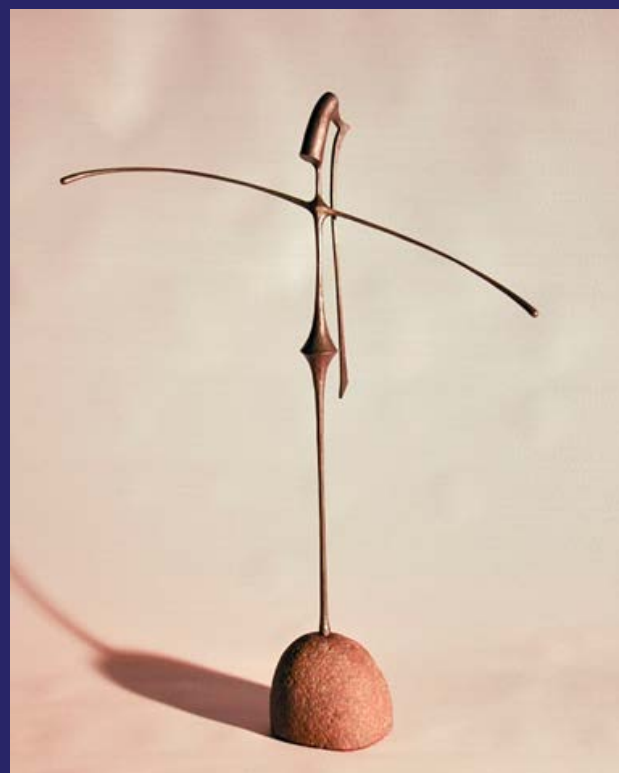
About the Statue

Created in 2017 by local artist Will Maguire.

The statue is made from forged steel, mounted on a stable base of naturally worn stone from the local area.

It depicts a woman standing tall in a strong committed stance with caring arms spread forth, her long hair falling freely behind. The clear cross-like form of the body refers to Mary Magdalene's connection with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and the attributes which lead her to be in such a situation.

In essence the award aims to be a simple peaceful work that can be contemplated by the recipients in quite reflective moments. It is not intended to be fully understood or explained, like St. Mary Magdalene herself.



**Mary Magdalene Perpetual Statue
Designed by Will Maguire - Blacksmith**

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NOMINATION FORM

The forms are designed for you to type in the information below, if providing a handwritten version please print it neatly.

Nominee's details

Name of Nominee:

Nominee's home address:

Post code:

Parish:

Email:

Mobile:

Nominator's details

(To be completed by the person who is nominating)

Name:

Email:

Contact numbers (Ph):

(Mobile):

Signature:

Nominee's consent

I,
consent to a nomination being submitted for the Magdalene Award – 2026

Signature

Image Release Form

I
grant permission to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to use and reproduce any visual and audio image/s taken of me in its future promotional and marketing materials, website, intranet, annual report, recruitment, advertising and/or other publications.

I understand that visual and audio images include but are not limited to photographs in hardcopy and digital form, audio recordings and audio-visual digital recordings.

I acknowledge that the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle regularly reproduces visual and audio images/recordings as stated above and by signing below I give the Diocese the authorisation to use and reproduce images of me with or without retouching, cropping and altering.

I also acknowledge that any image taken of me by or on behalf of the diocese belongs to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle for its own use; however, that the organisation will not exploit the right by sharing or using the image outside any practice or material being promoted by the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and its agencies.

I understand I have the right to withdraw my consent in writing and at any time to the Director of Communications, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, and that the organisation will no longer use my image in publications, website and associated promotional material.

Signature

Date

If you specifically do not want a certain image file of you used please state so below, (i.e. audio)

Referees

Please provide the names of at least two (2) referees who can speak on your behalf of the nominee's involvement in your Parish and broader community. These referees must include one of the following: a Parish Priest, Deacon **or** a school leadership representative such as a Principal or Assistant Principal.

Please ensure you have discussed this nominee with your referees and sought their permission to include their details below.

FIRST REFEREE

Name:

Parish:

Contact numbers (BH):

(AH):

(Mobile):

Position

SECOND REFEREE

Name:

Leadership area:

Contact numbers (BH):

(AH):

(Mobile)

Position:

PLEASE ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING IN SUPPORT OF YOUR NOMINATION.

Each nominee will

- Be **aged 18 years or over**.
- Be an **active member of a Parish** in the Diocese of Maitland–Newcastle.
- Have made a **positive contribution** in decision making, leadership, and/or ministry within the Parish or Diocese in the last 2 years.
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Magdalene Award Criteria Questions

1. What evidence demonstrates the nominee's commitment to her Parish or the wider Diocesan community? Provide up to three examples within the past two years, including the measurable impact of the nominee's commitment on others. (200 words maximum)
(Three examples may be: Parish group support for children's ministry/youth group, regular volunteer outreach role in a community kitchen and consistency of long-term service to the Parish council.)

2. Describe a time within the past two years when the nominee demonstrated leadership and community engagement. (200 words maximum).
(Outline the situation/need that arose, the actions taken to lead/organise/encourage, who benefited from the leadership and the positive change/results/outcome that followed.)

3. In what ways does the nominee currently minister within her Parish and/or diocesan community? (200 words maximum)
(E.g. Formation, Liturgical, Sacramental, Pastoral, Mentoring, Accompaniment or Outreach Activities)

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Checklist

Before submitting, ensure you have included:

- Completed and signed the Nomination Form
- Contact details for at least two (2) referees
- Completed and signed the Image Release Form
- Responses to Award Criteria Questions

Completed Nominations

Completed nominations can be emailed to kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au or posted to

Kate Crncevic
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
841 Hunter Street
Newcastle West NSW 2302

by **Monday 8 June 2026.**