

DECREE OF THE BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

32/2026

Decree – Provision

Appointment to Ecclesiastical Office of Parish Deacon in the Chisholm Region Parishes of Lochinvar, Rutherford, Maitland, East Maitland, Morpeth and Beresfield, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Deacon Christopher,

I wish to inform you that I am appointing you as Parish Deacon in the Parishes of Lochinvar, Rutherford, Maitland, East Maitland, Morpeth and Beresfield under the supervision of Fr George Anthicad. I know he will make you welcome as you are ordained to the diaconate and transition into your new ministry within the parish.

Your appointment is effective from the time of your ordination on **23 May 2026** until I advise you otherwise in writing.

This appointment also grants you Diocesan Faculties. Please make yourself aware of the Diocesan Particular Law and follow the directions in such laws with particular care. A copy of the faculties and a full list of diocesan particular law instructions can be found at this link:

[DoMN SharePoint – Particular Law Faculties and Instructions for Deacons of the Diocese.](#)

The Bishop's Office will inform the following of your appointment (if relevant to do so) and make any necessary changes:

1. Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages
2. Legal and Governance (ACNC Charity Register)
3. The Official Directory of the Catholic Church of Australia
4. Australian Catholic Ministry Register (ACMR)
5. Catholic Community Fund (CCF)
6. Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Clergy Fund (MNCF)
7. Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office/or Department of Home Affairs
8. Clergy in Parish/es of Appointment
9. Director Catholic Schools
10. Principals of local Parish Primary Schools and local Catholic High Schools
11. Director CatholicCare
12. Director St Nicholas Early Education, OOSH and Pathways
13. Pastoral Support Worker
14. Communications & Marketing / Bishop's Office (Intranet / Website)

15. People & Culture (mnpeople)
16. Technology Services
17. Information Management Team (Padre).

As you are aware, this appointment is not intended to create an employment relationship. The appointment and your acceptance of it is part of your religious and spiritual service to the Church, in this Diocese, in collaboration with myself.

You will need to take the **Oath of Office** and the **Profession of Faith** which you may do before any priest in good standing. The documents accompany this decree.

The diocese is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. It is a requirement that you comply with all civil and ecclesiastical laws and instructions in relation to safeguarding. To demonstrate this you are required to sign the **Diocesan Safeguarding Commitment Statement**. The document accompanies this decree.

I ask that you please send my office signed copies of:

- a letter of acceptance
- the Oath of Office and the Profession of Faith (CIC . 1283)
- the Diocesan Safeguarding Commitment Statement (NSW Child Safe Standards Std.1).

Our diocese has developed an Ongoing Professional Development Process (The Process). To access the Ongoing Professional Development Process and resources please see the following link to the Diocesan Intranet documents: [Professional Development Resources](#).

The Process includes professional supervision, ongoing formation, and 360 degree reviews aligned to the Parish Pastoral Plan. Your acceptance of this office includes your commitment to participate in The Process. Recording of your completion of each element of the [Continuous Professional Development Table](#) is to be recorded in MNPeople.

The Diocese has a list of approved professional supervisors available to enable you to find the appropriate supervisor for you. You can access the list of supervisors at this link: [Diocesan Supervisor Register](#).

At the end of your term of office, your participation in The Process will be taken into account before another appointment is made.

As per Section 2 Part 10.6 of Diocesan Faculties with Instructions Handbook for Deacons 2017, once you and the parish priest have decided on your parish duties they are to be documented, along with any remuneration or support the parish provides to you, signed and a copy sent to the Bishop's Office.



Rev Deacon Christopher Voigt

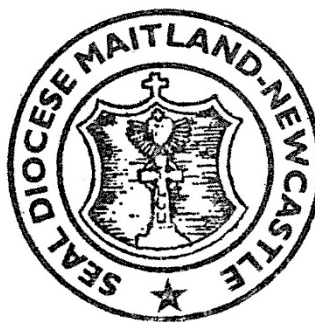
Parish Deacon – Permanent – Chisholm Region Parishes of

Lochinvar, Rutherford, Maitland, East Maitland, Morpeth and Beresfield

Christopher, I seek your **written acceptance** of your appointment to this ecclesiastical office **within 14 days** of receiving this letter.

I wish you all the best in your ministry.

Given at Hamilton, NSW on the 22nd day of May 2026.



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



Very Reverend Matthew Muller VG
Chancellor

+MK/az

enc: Documents: Oath of Office; Profession of Faith; Safeguarding Commitment Statement

cc: Priests in the Parishes of Appointment:

Fr George Anthicad, Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Coloma, Assistant Priest

Fr Priyantha Fernando, Assistant Priest

Fr Anil Kuchipudi, Assistant Priest

Bishop's Office - Pastoral Support – Nichola McCarthy

Bishop's Office - For People and Culture/MN People – Via Lodged Form

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