

DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR WOMEN
**MAGDALENE
AWARD**

INFORMATION PACK

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MAGDALENE AWARD

About the Diocesan Council for Women

Previously the Council for Australian Catholic Women (CACW) promoted the participation of women in the Catholic Church of Australia. Established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in 2000, the council was committed to ongoing dialogue regarding the participation of women in the Catholic Church.

A contact group was formed in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in 2002 to facilitate local input and provide local leadership regarding the participation of women in the Catholic Church and more specifically the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. In 2020 Bishop Bill Wright commissioned the Diocesan Council for Women.

In 2014 the contact group conducted a survey to ascertain the views of local women (and men) on matters relating to the participation of women in decision-making, leadership and ministry in the life of the Church. The subsequent report, Listening to Local Women, made several recommendations, including the establishment of an annual award to recognise local women who demonstrate leadership in the life of the Church. The Magdalene Award was inaugurated in 2015, but due to the implications of Covid-19, the award has been in abeyance for the past four years. Bishop Michael Kennedy has given his blessing to relaunch the Magdalene Award in 2024.

Who is Mary Magdalene?

Mary Magdalene was the first to experience the Risen Christ and is the first Christian missionary, 'the apostle to the apostles'. She exemplified courage, leadership, fidelity and strength.

What is the Magdalene Award?

Each year the Magdalene Award recognises a woman living in and committed to the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. This is a public affirmation of a life being lived in ways that echo the spirit of Mary Magdalene.

In 2024, the recipient of this Award will have an opportunity for spiritual nourishment, a retreat experience, or a faith formation opportunity to an agreed value.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Council for Women now invites nominations for the Award, with the recipient to be announced at a Mass to coincide with the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene (22 July).

How can a nomination be made?

Nominations can be received from any member of the diocesan community and must be submitted with the permission of the nominee.

Each nominee will

- ▶ Be aged 18 years or over.
- ▶ Be an active member of her parish community.
- ▶ Have made a positive contribution within the parish and/or diocese in the area of decision-making and leadership, and/or pastoral ministry.
- ▶ Contribute in an active voluntary role to the diocese either through work/ministry in their parish or via a diocesan community program.

Diocesan employees are eligible if they have an active voluntary role in their parishes or the diocesan community. Their paid work is not eligible for consideration for this award.

Women may be nominated in more than one year.

The nominator is asked to complete the nomination form and address clearly, the criteria supporting the nomination. The nominee must sight and endorse the supporting information.

Magdalene Award Mass and Presentation

All nominees will be recognised and the successful nominee will receive the Award at the Magdalene Award Presentation following Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Bishop Michael Kennedy will preside at Mass and the presentation will take place in Cathedral House. All nominators and nominees, and nominees' family and friends, are invited to attend the Mass and presentation at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday 28 July 2024 at 9:30am.

What happens next?

The nominator is asked to submit her/his completed Magdalene Award Nomination Form via email to kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au or post to Kate Crncevic at the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West NSW 2302 by the closing date **Monday 3 June 2024**.

Late nominations will not be accepted.

On receipt of the nomination, a confirmation will be sent to the nominator.

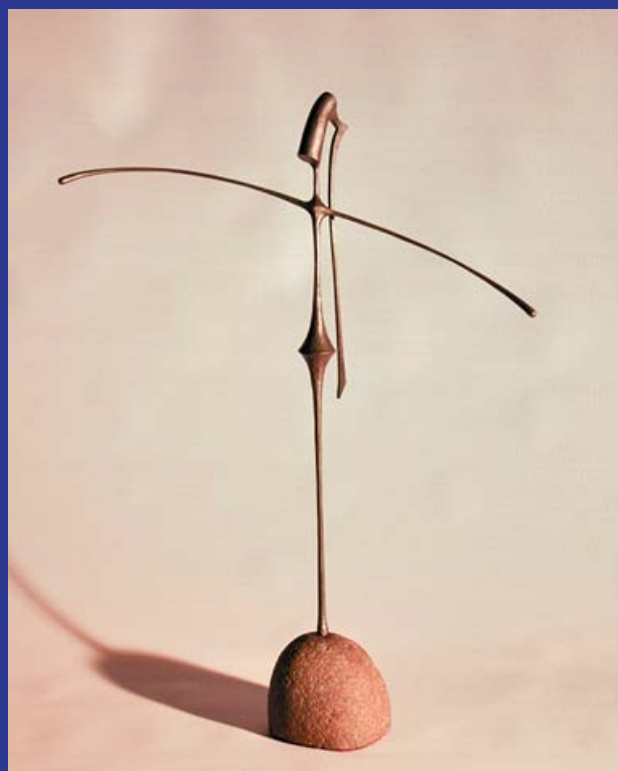
Review and Selection

It will be the responsibility of the Magdalene Award Review Panel to review the nominations.

The Review Panel will comprise the Bishop or his representative, the Review Panel Co-Ordinator (non-voting), the Chair of the Council for Women and two members of the diocesan community.

The Panel will receive copies of the nominations and will assemble to review them. Members of the Panel will disclose any conflict of interest and excuse themselves from the committee immediately should a family member, or person with whom s/he has a personal or professional working relationship, be nominated.

The Magdalene Award Review Panel Co-ordinator will verify the three women shortlisted by contacting the nominated referees.



**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.

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 – 2024

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 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 Dioceses 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 Head 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 are able to 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 Parish Leader or a school leadership representative such as a Principal or Deputy Principal (if applicable).

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):
(Mobile)

(AH):

Position

SECOND REFEREE

Name:

Leadership area:

Contact numbers (BH):
(Mobile)

(AH):

Position:



Magdalene Award Criteria

Each nominator is required to address the criteria and demonstrate why the nominee should be considered for the Magdalene Award.

Each nominee will

- ▶ Be aged 18 years or over.
- ▶ Be an active member of her parish community.
- ▶ Have made a positive contribution within the parish and/or diocese in the area of decision-making and leadership, and/or pastoral ministry.
- ▶ Contribute in an active voluntary role to the diocese either through work/ministry in their parish or via a diocesan community program.

Diocesan employees are eligible if they have an active voluntary role in their parishes or the diocesan community. Their paid work is not eligible for consideration for this award.

1 What evidence is there of the nominee's commitment to the parish/Diocesan community?

2 Identify and describe a time when the nominee demonstrated leadership and community engagement.

3 Identify and describe the way(s) the nominee ministers in the parish and/or diocesan community.

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Checklist

Have I included the following?

- Signed and completed nomination form.
- Contact details for at least two (2) referees.
- Completed and signed diocesan image release form.

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 3 June 2024**

Should you have any questions about the Magdalene Award please contact the Chair of the Diocesan Council for Women

Helene O'Neill
P 0400 781 374
E helene.oneill@mn.catholic.org.au