

15th January 2012
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE CITY PASTORAL REGION ENCOMPASSES THE PARISHES OF:
Broadmeadow, Hamilton, Tighes Hill/Carrington, Newcastle, Mayfield, Mayfield West, & Stockton

Vision Statement: We are a vibrant, welcoming, inclusive, Catholic faith community, sustained by Gospel values and active in the community.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors:

We come to the table of the Lord's Word and table of the Eucharist, returning to what the Church calls 'Ordinary Time'. We are reminded that it is in the ordinariness of the *ups and downs* of everyday life that we experience God's life-giving presence and love.

This ordinariness can be seen in today's Gospel when John the Baptist sees Jesus 'walking by' and points him out to his two disciples, who later become members of the 12 Apostles. John tells them: 'Behold the Lamb of God.' There is power in that declaration, the same words that we hear at every Mass before Communion when the priest raises the host and proclaims:

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...

Paul Turner explains the new translation as follows:

Instead of saying, "This is the Lamb of God," the priest will say, "Behold the Lamb of God." This is closer to the Latin, more majestic in sound, and a more direct allusion to John 1:29, where John the Baptist points out Jesus to his followers.

The word "Happy" has been changed to "Blessed." You may be blessed even when you are experiencing sorrow. This change, together with the explicit reference to "the supper of the Lamb," makes clearer the allusion to Revelation 19:9. There, the angel in the vision has John write down the words that proclaim blessed all those called to the wedding banquet of the Lord.

The reply makes two changes. First, "to receive you" becomes "that you should enter under my roof." This makes a more direct connection with Matthew 8:8 and Luke 7:6, where a Gentile centurion has asked Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus intends to go to the house, but the centurion believes himself unworthy to have Jesus come to his home. Jesus admires the man's faith and cures the servant from afar.

(from "Understanding the Revised Mass Texts by Paul Turner)

After John points Jesus out, Andrew and the other disciple immediately follow after him. Jesus asks them: 'What are you looking for?' Then comes their question: 'Rabbi (teacher) where are you staying?' Jesus replies: 'Come and you will see' – a wonderful way of life for the 'true' disciple! At John's prompting, Andrew becomes a disciple of Jesus. He goes to find his brother, Peter, and announces he has found the **Messiah**.

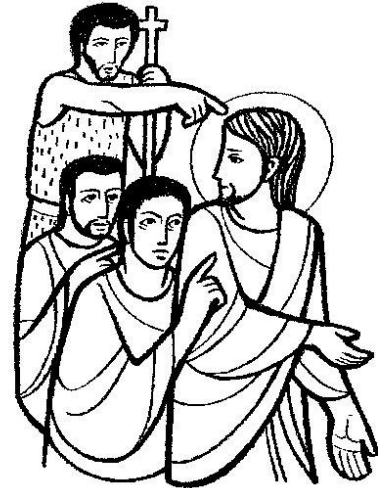
Encounter elicits allegiance and allegiance generates action.

The question: **Where do you stay** is the important question this weekend. Where did Jesus stay? He lived in intimate communion with his Abba (Father) and this is what these men began to sense. It was to this intimacy that they were drawn - for in Jesus they saw a **new possibility**. This story is an example of **evangelisation** at its best!

On a practical level, there are some changes happening in our Inner City area.

- Firstly, we say farewell to **Fr John Tobin** and wish him well in his appointment to Merriwa and Denman. We thank him for ministry in the Inner City Parishes and particularly his care and devotion to the sick of our parishes.
- We welcome **Fr Godi (George) Anthicadu** who is moving from Raymond Terrace to be Assistant Priest in the Inner City. The changes will take place on Wednesday, 25th January.
- **Sr Jeannine French**, as many of you know will retire at Easter and have a sabbatical. She has promised to return to be "a presence" and help where she can in retirement and for that we are grateful. We have been preparing for this move now a number of months with a 'new' appointment for the Sacramental Team and we are still planning for the liturgical side of our Inner City life.
- **Sr Patricia McCarthy**, who coordinates RCIA, is also retiring at Easter. After her sabbatical, Sr Patricia will continue her pastoral presence to the needy. For this we are also grateful.

As we return to the ordinariness of everyday life after the holidays, as an Inner City Region, we need plan together for these changes. **An Assembly** will help us to create an **Inner City Pastoral Council** and also allow for parishioners to give their input as to how we will face the future together. As people return from holidays over the next few weeks, further details will follow from a coordinating body.



Mike Allan

Parish Priest: Monsignor Allan Hart

PARISH OFFICE

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Open: 9am - 5pm Closed 1-2 pm

Web site: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au

Pastoral Outreach

Sr. Patricia McCarthy rsj

Support for Music and Liturgy

Sr. Jeannine French rsj

Coordinator of Mercy Pastoral Team

Sr. Patricia Whitten rsm

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY MASSES: Vigil 5:30pm;
9.30am; (11.30am-Polish Mass); 5pm
Slovenian Mass: 5th Sunday of the
month at 6.00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES & NOVENA

8:20 am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri

12:05pm Wed, Thurs, Fri

9:20am Saturday & 10am Novena

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 10:30-11am & 5-5.15pm

Sunday: 9am-9.20am

Wed, Thurs Fri: 11:00am-11:55am

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Cnr Union St & Tighes Terrace
TIGHES HILL - **SUNDAY** : 8.00 am
RECONCILIATION : Before Sunday Mass

ST LAURENCE O'TOOLE

125 Broadmeadow Rd
BROADMEADOW

SATURDAY VIGIL 5:30pm

SUNDAY 9:30am (Italian)

ST MARY'S, NEWCASTLE

54 Perkins Street, Newcastle
SUNDAY 7:30am

ST JOSEPH'S, THE JUNCTION

Cnr Kenrick & Farquhar Sts

SUNDAY 9:00am

USUAL WEEKDAY TIMES

Mon 7am St Joseph's
(Liturgy of the Word with Communion)

Tues-Thurs 7am St Joseph's

Fri 10:15am St Joseph's

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

Please contact the Parish Office

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Primary School, The Junction
Holy Family Primary School, Merewether

Bulletin notices or Prayer Requests: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au or 4979 1101
The deadline for Bulletin notices and prayer requests is Wednesday at 5:00pm.

MIDDAY MASS AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL: During all of January, midday Mass will be celebrated **ONLY on Fridays**, when there will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession from 11am - 11:45am. There are also Confessions on Saturdays at 10:30am at the Cathedral following the Novena.

LENTEN GROUPS

For those wishing to lead Lenten Groups, there are a number of options available from the Parish Office. You are welcome to come in and have a look at the booklets.

- "Living Faith" from the Diocese of Wollongong
- "Towards the Light" from the Archdiocese of Brisbane
- "Living a Life in Grace" from the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
- "Make Disciples of All Nations - The New Evangelisation" from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Once you have gathered your group, the office staff can order the appropriate books for your group.

FISH AND CHIPS AT BAR BEACH - For Family Groups and all interested parishioners. BYO. Friday, 20th January from 5pm. For more information, please contact Chris Dowling 4926 5194.

SENIOR SINGLES DINNER at Merewether Bowling Club, Caldwell Street, Merewether on Wednesday 1st February at 6:45pm. Phone Rosemary 4952 4326 or mobile 0421 415 387.

BECOME A PART OF THE PARISH PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM TO HELP YOUR PARISH GROW - We thank most sincerely all Parishioners who contribute to the Planned Giving Program. Your ongoing commitment and contributions assist the responsible budgeting for the operating expenses of the Parish (wages, rates, electricity, building maintenance, etc) as well as pastoral planning for Parish growth (faith education, sacramental preparation, resources, etc). To obtain Planned Giving envelopes, please complete a form and place on the Collection Plate, or contact the Parish Office on 49791101. Part of your Planned Giving Contributions are Tax Deductible.

OLN BROWN NURSES GOLDEN JUBILEE - February 19th, 2012 marks the occasion of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor arrival in the **Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**. To celebrate this milestone **Bishop Bill Wright** will offer the **9.30am Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral**. You are invited to celebrate this day with us. Morning tea will be served in the Victor Peter's Suite after the 9.30am Mass. For catering purposes we would appreciate your RSVP by Friday Feb 10th, 2012 - phone 02 4963 1193 Email address: olnmerewether@bigpond.com.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS - EXODUS JOURNEY 2012 - Harvest Pilgrimages will conduct a 21 day tour to Cairo, Petra and the Holy Land leaving Sydney on 20th May 2012. Spiritual guidance on the tour will be offered by Terrigal's Parish Priest, Fr Dominik Karnas of the Polish Congregation of St Michael the Archangel. Cost: \$6,790. Contact: Harvest Pilgrimages 1800 19 156 - Suzanne Martin (Newcastle) 4929 4021.

THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL - "The Gospel is about "calling", in fact, about a second "calling". It is about two men who are already disciples of John the Baptist. John points Jesus out to them, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" John knows that his role of leadership is temporary, that he is to yield to the leadership of Jesus.

"The disciples begin - out of curiosity? - to go after Jesus. Jesus turns round and asks them: "What do you want?" Hear Jesus ask you that question today. Generally we tend to think that we should be asking, "What does God want?" But no, he also wants to know what we want. The answer to that question is less for his benefit than for ours. Our answer will tell us what our real priorities are with regard both to God and the people and the world around us.

"What do we really want from life, from God? It is not such an easy question to answer - but it tells us where we really are. And it is a question we will have to answer at different stages in our life as circumstances change."

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Frank Doyle SJ