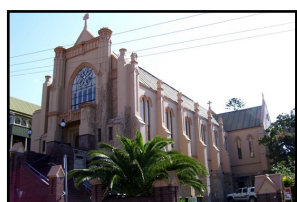


Sacred Heart Cathedral,
Hamilton



St Joseph's,
The Junction



St Mary, Star of the Sea,
Newcastle



Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Tighes Hill



St Laurence O'Toole's,
Broadmeadow



Christ the King,
Mayfield West



St Peter-in-Chains',
Stockton

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

SUNDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2019 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Incorporating the Parishes of St Benedict's, Inner Newcastle, St Columban's, Mayfield, and St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton, our mission is to proclaim Christ in the inner suburbs of the City of Newcastle.

Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.

Clergy in the Region

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr Joseph Figurado
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller
Fr James Odoh
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
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W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au

Regional Office Staff

Chris Cootes (*Regional Business Manager*)
Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Jade Simonsen (*Finance & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Administration*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Director of Music, Liturgy & Sacramental Program*)

Office Hours

The Regional Office is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, and closed for lunch from 1pm to 2pm.

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team Contact the Regional Office
Mercy Pastoral Team Sr Patricia Whitten rsm (02) 4979 1116
St Joseph's Pastoral Team Contact the Regional Centre

Regional Bulletin

The Bulletin is published weekly.

Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Regional Office by Noon on Wednesdays.

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Third week of Advent

Monday 16 December

8.15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 17 December

7.30am Mass @ The Junction
8.15am Mass @ The Cathedral
9.15am Mass @ Broadmeadow
11am Anointing Mass @ Wescott

Wednesday 18 December

7.30am Mass @ The Junction
8am Mass @ Mayfield West
8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
9.15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

Thursday 19 December

7.30am Mass @ The Junction
8am Mass @ Stockton
8.15am Mass @ The Cathedral
9am Marian Prayer Group @ Mayfield West
9.15am Mass @ Broadmeadow
5.30pm Mass @ Seafarers' Centre, Wickham

Friday 20 December

8am Mass @ Mayfield West
9.15am Mass @ Tighes Hill
10.15am Mass @ The Junction
11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation at The Cathedral
12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 21 December

9.15am Mass & Novena @ The Cathedral
5.30pm Vigil Mass @ Broadmeadow
5.30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral
5.30pm Rosary @ Mayfield West
6pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 22 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

7.30am Mass @ Newcastle
8am Mass @ Tighes Hill
9am Mass @ The Junction
9am Mass @ Stockton
9.30am Mass @ The Cathedral
10.30am Italian Mass @ Broadmeadow
11.30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral
5pm Mass @ The Cathedral

A reminder to **Mayfield** parishioners that the Friday morning Mass is held at 9.15am in the School Hall during school terms and at 8am in Christ the King Church during school holidays.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

The desert will rejoice and blossom.

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

Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading James 5:7-10

Be patient, even in suffering.

Gospel Acclamation Is 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 Mt 11:2-11

John asks, 'Are you the one who is to come?'

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading Is 7:10-14

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2019

Christmas Eve – 24 December

5.30pm Cathedral
5.30pm Broadmeadow
6.00pm Mayfield West
6.00pm The Junction
7.30pm Cathedral
10pm Cathedral Polish Mass

Christmas Day – 25 December

Midnight Cathedral
7.30am Newcastle
8am Tighes Hill
9am The Junction
9am Stockton
9.30am Cathedral
10.30am Broadmeadow Italian Mass
11.30am Cathedral Polish Mass



Please remember in prayer all those affected by the New Zealand volcano disaster.

Please remember, too, the communities throughout NSW and Queensland who continue to suffer bushfire and drought.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation is available at **Sacred Heart Cathedral: Usually Fridays** from **11am** until **11.55am** and on Saturdays from **about 10.30am** until **11am**. Other times available by appointment.

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays, generally following our Sunday Masses. A monthly Baptism Preparation meeting takes place in the Regional Office on the first Wednesday of each month, commencing at **5.30pm**. Please contact the Regional Office for more details, or visit the website.

A **Sacramental Preparation** process runs each year in the parishes for children wishing to complete the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation as part of the community of the parishes of the Region. Please contact the Regional Office for more details, or visit the website.

For adults who wish to become part of the Church, our parishes celebrate the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** for those who have not been baptised, and the **Rite of Reception into Full Communion** for those who have been baptised in other churches as part of our commitment to proclaim the Gospel. Please contact the Regional Office for more details, or visit the website.

Weddings are celebrated by arrangement with at least three (and preferably more) months notice. Please contact the Regional Office for more details, or visit the website.

2nd Rite Reconciliation will be offered at Christ the King Church, **Mayfield West**, at 6.30pm on **Tuesday, 17th December**, and at St Peter-in-Chains Church, **Stockton**, at 6.30pm on **Wednesday, 18th December**.

Fr Joseph would like to remind **Stockton** parishioners that **Reconciliation** is also available each **Sunday morning from 8.20am to 8.50am**, prior to 9am

Simbang Gabi at Sacred Heart Cathedral
In preparation for the Solemnity of the Lord's birth, Novena Masses will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in the evenings of **15th December to 23rd December 2019**.



The celebration of the Christmas Novena Masses, also known as Simbang Gabi to Filipinos, is a long tradition brought by the Spanish Friars in the Philippines in 1669. The Novena Masses are in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God, and serve as a preparation for the commemoration of the Birth of Our Lord and Saviour. The Eucharistic celebration promptly starts at **7.15 pm**. Filipino cuppa follows after each Eucharistic gathering. *All are welcome!*

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



RECENTLY DECEASED: Mary Williams, Anne Heggs, Jim Mackie, Rosemary Plota, Clifford Alpin, Jill Emberson

ANNIVERSARY: Sr Clare Tobin rsj, Sr Anne Callinan rsj, Sr Andrea Myers rsj, Fr Harry Hughes, Fr Philip Ryan, Fr Dermot Heffernan, Fr Edmund McGrath, Fr Thomas Purcell, Eileen Olsen, Tom Kember, Enid Williams, Mrs Piatkowska, Nicola Rossi, Sofia Yanis

SICK: John Belcher, Libby Oates, Graeme Burrage, Brian Swift, Monica Bound, Peter McCabe, Joan Haynes, Dianne D'Angelo, Tom Towers, Kerry Davies

Names may be placed here by contacting the Regional Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Regional website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

Please note we will delete names from the sick list after a period of three months, unless otherwise advised.

Please note regarding the Novena
On Saturday, 28th December (between Christmas and New Year), there will be **no Saturday Mass/ Novena** at the Cathedral.

Broadmeadow and **Tighes Hill** parishioners, please note: Fr James will be on leave after Christmas, until the end of January. Weekend Masses at Broadmeadow and Tighes Hill will continue during that period, but there will be *no weekday Masses*. Broadmeadow and Tighes Hill parishioners are invited to attend other weekday Masses in the region, which will be continuing as normal.

The Cathedral and St Joseph's are served by a hearing loop—use the setting marked "T".

Lectio Divina at St Mary's

Lectio Divina is a traditional monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer, intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. Each **Thursday** evening, there are gatherings at St Mary's, starting at 6pm. On each of the Thursday nights of Advent, we explore the gospel for the coming Sunday. All welcome!

REGIONAL NOTICES

San Clemente end-of-year School Mass will be held at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10.30am on **Monday, 16th December**.

PALMS Cuppa Fundraiser & Christmas Gathering will be held at St Joseph's on Sunday, 22nd December, following the 9am Mass. Please bring a plate of food to share.



Bookclub There are no Bookclub meetings in December/January. The next meeting is at 6.30pm on **Sunday, 2nd February 2020!** We meet in the Regional Centre, 25 Farquhar Street, The Junction and we bring along a light snack to share. All are welcome to join Bookclub for one book or for them all. At the February meeting, we will share our thoughts on the book, *Daisy Jones & the Six*, by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

View, Chew & Chat: We've completed our 4th successful year! We look forward to starting up again in February 2020!



Please be aware the Regional Office will be closed over Christmas and New Year **from 5pm on Tuesday, 24th December till 9am on Thursday, 2nd January**.

Phone messages and emails received during this time will be answered ASAP upon our return in 2020.

Please also note that prayer requests for the Sunday Parish Bulletin for Sunday 22nd December need to be received at the Regional Office no later than close of business **on Wednesday, 18th December**.

Congratulations

This week Fr James and Fr Peter have celebrated their anniversaries of ordination (Fr James, 3 years on 10th December and Fr Peter, 5 years on 12th December). We thank them for their faithful service and pray that God will continue to bless them in their priestly ministry.

May the grace and peace of the Lord be with them in all they do.

Newcastle Earthquake Remembrance

The 30th anniversary of the 1989 Newcastle earthquake will be acknowledged at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, with prayers and the laying of a wreath at the 5.30pm vigil Mass on **Saturday, 28th December**. The original concrete dome of the Cathedral was severely damaged in the earthquake and was replaced by a copper dome. The concrete dome is now in the grounds of the Cathedral as a memorial to the quake victims. The inscription stone at the base of the dome contains the names of the 13 people who died in the earthquake. It stands in tribute not only to those victims, but also to the many people who suffered personal grief and hardship and to all those who worked to relieve their suffering.



Stockton Christmas Appeal and Advent Collection

Today is the last day for donations of goods for Christmas Hampers for the needy in our area.

Thank you for your generosity!

Raffle to aid Drought & Bushfire Relief

The faith community of **Christ the King, Mayfield West** will be holding a raffle, the proceeds of which will go to the Drought & Bushfire Relief Appeal.

Tickets are for sale after Vigil Mass.

Drawn on Saturday, 21st December.

Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Your support is much appreciated!

*Stockton and Mayfield Parishioners
It's on this weekend!*



*Please join our combined
Christmas Barbeque
in the grounds of
St Peter-in-Chains School,
Stockton,
this Sunday, 15th December
from 5pm.*

**How do I share my Faith about the real meaning of
Christmas?**

Is there someone in the parish who will be alone on Christmas Day? Could you invite them to Christmas lunch?

Are you able to advertise Christmas Mass times at your workplace, or on the community billboard at your local shopping centre?

When you are doing your Christmas shopping, could you affirm the staff on the checkout? Let them know they are doing a brilliant job.

Will you be alone on Christmas day? If you are up to it, could you volunteer to help at a homeless shelter or nursing home? Bringing some Christmas cheer to other lonely people might bring joy to your own heart.

Are you carrying a hurt or grudge with a family member? Can you find a way to be reconciled? If this would be really tough, then pray through the season of Advent that God will help you find the right time and the right words to make your peace.

When was the last time you celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation? If you are carrying a burden, then why not give it up to God in this beautiful sacrament? A heart that is at peace will no doubt be reflected in your actions.

Would you feel comfortable inviting to Christmas Mass someone you know who has stopped going to Mass (and maybe offer to pick them up)?

(Excerpt from 'The Bridge', a resource for Australian Catholics striving to share their faith.)



OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE REGION

Carols in the Cloister return this year to St Joseph's Chapel, New England Highway, Lochinvar this **Sunday, 15th December**, starting at 6:30pm. All are welcome to come along and be immersed in the music and spirit of Christmas. Celebrate the reason for the season! Stay afterwards and enjoy light refreshments and great company.



St. Columba's Adamstown Drama Group, 'Bright Sparks', present *'The Toymaker, the Boy and Christmas'* at 2pm this **Sunday, 15th December** at St Columba's Hall, Lockyer Street, Adamstown. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, 5-14 years. Enquiries call Christine Williams on 4943 3824 or Lyndall Ford on 4957 8527 or mobile 0415 745623.

2020 Catechists Mass: Bishop Bill invites you to an annual celebration of the wonderful work of catechists on **Saturday, 22nd February 2020** at 2pm, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Celebrate the ministry of Special Religious Education, Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA and Children's Liturgy.

Walk the Camino 2020. Two Catholic Mission Pilgrimages: Portuguese Camino (May 2020) and Camino Francés (September to October 2020). Small groups, so places are limited. For details phone Sr Veronica Rosier, OP on 0451 387906, or visit www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020

Aid to the Church in Need - Gifts of Faith

Did you know that each year Australians spend upwards of \$20 billion on Christmas gifts, food and celebrations? That is around \$1,300 per person. How many of us struggle, though, to find something meaningful to give, when the truth is that so many of us have all we need anyway?

This year, for the very first time, ACN is pleased to present our 'Gifts of Faith' catalogue. A Gift of Faith is a Christmas donation, given to ACN on behalf of a loved one, in lieu of giving them a material gift. Our Gifts of Faith support Catholic people, amidst suffering, oppression and persecution. To arrange a Gift of Faith, phone 1800 101201 (Mon-Fri, 8am - 5pm, or complete the order form online at www.aidtochurch.org/giftsofffaith. Please order by 9th December, to ensure your Gift of Faith card and envelope arrives in time for Christmas.

New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!



Generosity in Action

Have you ever been on a farm during summer? If you have, you will know how precious water is. When I was a boy, I spent several holidays on an uncle's property. There were often six or seven city-based cousins there for the long summer break. It was great fun, but the one thing of which we needed a daily reminder was to be careful with how much water we used. We seemed to luxuriate in the shower for twice as long as our country cousins!

I can remember that when we arrived for one holiday, it had not rained in the area for nearly nine months. A few days later, just at dusk, the thunder rumbled, the storm clouds gathered and the heavens burst open. The rain poured down. Like in the movies, everyone inside the house just stood up and walked out into the rain. No one said a word. We stood in the rain and soaked it in. The earth was not the only thing in need of a drenching.

In today's letter from St James, the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

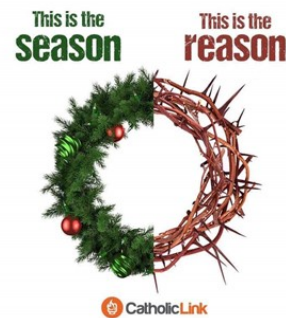
Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead.

This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis.

We are generous to others because God, in Jesus, has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.

© Richard Leonard



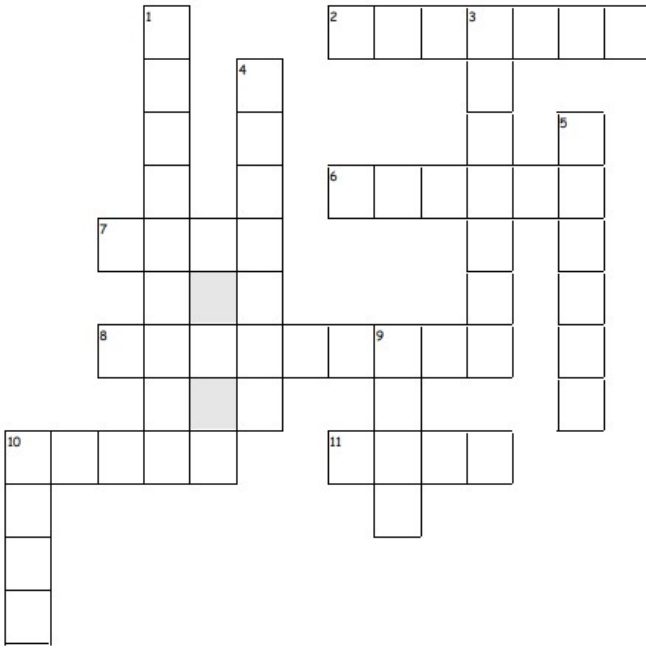
Least and Greatest

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

CROSSWORD

Jesus is coming to save us

Mt 11:2-11



Across

- 2: all the lands that are ruled by a king
- 6: where a king and queen live
- 7: having little or no money, food or possessions
- 8: someone who brings a message
- 10: less than anything else
- 11: he was in prison when he heard what Jesus was doing

Down

- 1: people who follow
- 3: bigger, more impressive
- 4: the disease that afflicts lepers
- 5: turn away, discard
- 9: Jesus was spreading the _____ news
- 10: not able to walk

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Lord, come and save us

Is 35:1-2, 5-6ab, 10
 Ps 146:6d-7ab, 7c-8abc, 10 R.v. (Is 35:4)
 Jas 5:7-10
 Mt 11:2-11



Try to find these words:

- deaf
- deserts
- farmers
- good
- John
- kingdom
- least
- leprosy
- messenger
- prophets
- songs
- valuable

COMING WEEKEND ROSTERS

The Cathedral	ADULT SERVER	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	COUNTERS
21 Dec 5.30pm	Louise Outram	Sue Paton Kath Williams	S Jarmain, M Simmons, Pedrita Spence, Bart Connors	Denise & Helen
22 Dec 9.30am	Peter Owens	Joan Woodcock Gail Lovell	Christopher Lovell, Frances Barber, Betty Stott, Cora Armstrong	
22 Dec 5.00pm	Allen Brierley	Chris Stubbs Teresa Brierley	Vera Walker	

NEWCASTLE	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
22 Dec 7.30am	P Clark C Prider	Volunteer	C Allan K Rees

STOCKTON	WELCOMER	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
22 Dec 9.00am	Mary V	Helen D, Stan	Sue, Harry	Helen O'B, Jan D, Bernie

TIGHES HILL	WELCOMERS	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
22 Dec 8.00am	Dorothea Norman Annemaree Turner	Jodie Edwards George Wozniak	Margaret Harrison Trevor Harrison	Mike O'Connor, Sue Horton, John Hayes

THE JUNCTION	WELCOMERS	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	COUNTERS
22 Dec 9.00am	Sidonie Coffey Diane Murphy	Mary O'Connor K Walker	Mark Coyte	P Lane Cath Purkiss Cathy Olds	M Williams C Mowbray B Straiton

BROADMEADOW	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	MINISTER OF COMMUNION	COUNTING TEAM	WELCOMING TEAM
21 Dec 5.30pm	Sr Judith Murphy rsm Terry Casey	Christine Mason	Judy & Denis Johns	Eileen Howard & Robin Cathcart

MAYFIELD WEST	WELCOMERS	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
21 Dec 6.00pm	Diane & Doreen	J Edstein/Boyes K Mernagh	D Woodward	P Boland R Ahkin, D Mundy