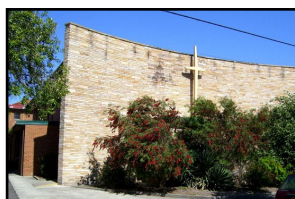




Sacred Heart Cathedral,
Hamilton



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, 22ND DECEMBER 2019 4TH 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
P: (02) 4979 1101 F: (02) 4962 4644
E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
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)

Fourth week of Advent

Monday 23 December

8.15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 24 December

7.30am Mass @ The Junction

8.15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8.45am Rosary @ Stockton

9.15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

Please see separate notice for details of Christmas Vigil Masses

Wednesday 25 December

The Nativity of the Lord

Please see separate notice for details of Christmas Day Masses

Thursday 26 December

Feast of St Stephen, the first martyr

9am Mass @ The Junction

9.30am Mass @ The Cathedral

11.30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

Friday 27 December

Feast of St John, apostle, evangelist

10.15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation at The Cathedral

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 28 December

Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

5.30pm Vigil Mass @ Broadmeadow

5.30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5.30pm Rosary @ Mayfield West

6pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 29 December

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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

6pm Slovenian Mass @ The Cathedral

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

(Carol Singing from 11.30pm)

7.30am Newcastle

8am Tighes Hill

9am The Junction

9am Stockton

9.30am Cathedral

10.30am Broadmeadow Italian Mass

11.30am Cathedral Polish Mass



THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

First Reading Is 7:10-14

Prediction of Immanuel, born of a virgin.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Paul spreads the news of the Son of God.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

An angel visits Joseph, who takes Mary as his wife.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

Gospel Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Please note regarding the Novena

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



Please remember in your prayers the communities in NSW and Queensland who continue to suffer bushfire and drought.

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

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**, **though this will not occur in January, because the first Wednesday is New Years Day**. 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.

FROM FR PETER.....

On behalf of the Clergy of the Region, I wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. As we end this year, there are difficulties to be sure, with bushfires and the ongoing drought. Despite this, the sheer wonder of the incarnation reminds us that we, each of us, is loved and wanted by our gracious God. The same God who came to us and dwelt among us as one of us, calls us to spread His good news to all people. As we carry on together the mission of proclaiming the Good News, may we share with everyone the love of the babe of Bethlehem who came to share His love with us.



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.

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 Mass.

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Beryl Wetherspoon, Giovanni (John) D'Amico, Bronislaw Gluszkiewicz, Members of the RFS who have died fighting the bushfires

ANNIVERSARY: Mary Lou Alexander, Jack Bleakley, Deceased members of the Burgess & Mennie families, Alan Fogarty, Kelvin O'Neill, Fr Patrick Murtagh, Fr Norman Withnell, Fr Thomas Quigley, Fr Thomas Nealon, James (Jim) Bridges, Marion Bridges, George & Mary Bridges, George, Maxie & Pat Bridges, Helen O'Sullivan, Millicent O'Neill

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

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.



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.

Christmas Cards are available at the Churches today, with Christmas wishes from the clergy and staff of the region, and details of the Christmas Mass times. Please feel free to take these to share with your family members and friends - especially those who might not regularly attend Mass, but who might like to attend at Christmas time.

REGIONAL NOTICES

PALMS Cuppa Fundraiser & Christmas Gathering will be held at St Joseph's this Sunday, 22nd December, following the 9am Mass. Enjoy some time with your fellow parishioners and support this worthy cause!

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!

Student Accommodation: 34 Kenrick St, The Junction (the old Newcastle Presbytery) is a share-house owned by the parish, with four independent living quarters. Unit 2 is currently vacant and available for student accommodation in 2020. Unit 2 has one bedroom, bathroom and living room, and shares the kitchen, laundry, dining, lounge and common rooms with three other female occupants. This unit would suit a female university student, or newly employed person, looking for independent accommodation in Newcastle. If you know anyone looking for student accommodation in Newcastle, please pass on our contact details. Inquiries to the Business Manager, Chris Cootes, on 4979 1254 or email chris.cootes@mn.catholic.org.au.



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 note, too, there will be no parish bulletin on the weekend of 28th & 29th December.

Stockton Parishioners please help!

In readiness for Christmas, church cleaning at St Peter -in-Chains will take place on Monday 23rd December @ 9am. Many hands make 'light work'. Hope to see you there!

Raffle to aid Drought & Bushfire Relief

The **Mayfield West** raffle will be drawn this weekend after the Vigil Mass. Thank you for your support.



Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.

See Luke 2:7

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.



*Christmas Message from Bishop Bill
"Home, Hearth & Earth"*

As we began to look at Christmas this year, fires raged across our region and up and down our state. People died, many more lost their homes and belongings, and more again were forced to evacuate their properties and take shelter in public buildings or crowd in with family or friends. Even those who were many kilometres from fire-danger were affected, enduring choking, smoke-laden air for days on end, if not weeks. In all that disruption, loss and turmoil, it was hard to have an Advent frame of mind, to look forward to an imminent season of peace and hopefulness.

Now, with Christmas upon us, as our minds absorb the notion that "God so loved the world that he sent his only son" to be one of us, we think particularly of those of our community who have suffered loss and harm, all the more so because when Christ was born it was away from his home, in a place of emergency shelter without any comforts, and in imminent danger. That was the place in the human story of which God chose to be a part. I hope all those who are somehow deprived of a normal Christmas this year can feel God cares for them, that Christ came first of all among the displaced and the vulnerable.

Then, as we give thanks to God for his presence in humanity, we give thanks for our brothers and sisters in the emergency services, in the volunteer groups, in the churches and charities, and those with no particular affiliations, who worked so hard to help and to save. Many may still be doing so on Christmas Day. As we celebrate Christ as "Emmanuel", God with us, we celebrate the goodness of all who are "with" others in their times of need. They may or may not recognise themselves as agents of God's care, but to believers, who see that it is God's Spirit that moves people to care and to seek what is good, that is what they are. Happy Christmas to you all!

And then again, as we return to the thought of Christ coming because God so loved the world, we recognise "the world" is more than those of us around here, more even than the tens of millions of displaced across the globe. Our fires and other natural disasters ravage the earth itself. Fire and flood, storms and, of course, drought kill countless living things and make wasteland of great portions

of the earth. Yes, these things have always happened, but as the frequency and severity of these events continually increase, as temperatures rise globally, it is as if Earth itself is screaming at us that it needs help, too. Earth needs us to "love the world", to love and care for it as God's creation and our common home. The Jesus who was born at Christmas closely observed the world around him, drawing lessons from the seasons, the birds of the air, the flowers of the fields, the crops and the weeds. So should we.

Christmas is a time of celebration, even in the midst of troubles. Indeed, it celebrates that God came to us, is with us, in the midst of our troubles. That is the gift of Christmas, the gift of Hope. So let's celebrate and rouse up in ourselves the spirit of Christmas, to be "with" one another as God is ever with us; to be with those in need especially, seeing them living in their "stables", lying vulnerable in their mangers; to be with and for the very Earth, the "world" into which Christ was sent, as part of which he was born.



Stockton-Mayfield Christmas Gathering

Sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way to making a wonderful and enjoyable Christmas gathering. A very special "thank you" to the Lim Family (*Stockton Bite Cafe*) who generously donated the meat for our BBQ. Special thanks, also, to John Frize, who donated the Lazy Susan Table for the raffle. This raised \$158.00 and was won by Annie Matthews, with the raffle proceeds being donated to St Peter's School. It was wonderful, too, to see so many priests in attendance. We all look forward to the 2020 Christmas gathering, which will be held at Mayfield next year.

*Thank
you*

On a personal note, Fr Joseph also wishes to thank all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the Christmas gathering such a success. He is grateful to his brother clergy for attending and is delighted the Mayfield and Stockton parishioners were able to share this special time together.

OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE REGION

Join us for Eileen's anniversary: You are invited to a day of prayer on Friday, 10th January 2020, to mark the 99th anniversary of the death of Servant of God and co-founder of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor, Eileen Rosaline O'Connor. Father Daniel Donovan will celebrate Mass at Our Lady's Home, 35 Dudley Street, Coogee, at 11am. After morning tea, visitors are welcome to return to the chapel to pray at Eileen's tomb, join in the many recitations of the Rosary throughout the day or just sit in quiet meditation. Please RSVP on 9665 6331 by Wednesday, 8th January to assist with catering.

Christmas Bowl Appeal: 70 years ago, millions of refugees were starving in war-ravaged Europe. As Reverend Frank Byatt, a young Methodist Minister, looked at his heavily-laden Christmas dinner table, the contrast between our abundance in Australia and the needs of others around the world could not have been more stark. As a Christian, he felt he had to do something. After all, it was Christmas, the one great day of sharing! He then called on his congregation to "get a bowl to put on your Christmas dinner table as a Bowl of Remembrance and see if you can get everybody round the table to make a generous gift so that you can share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands." This was the very first 'Christmas Bowl' appeal. This year focusses on South Sudan, where conflict, along with harsh weather, has made it almost impossible for people across the country to access clean water. This is forcing families to drink dirty and polluted water, leaving them vulnerable to sickness through waterborne diseases. Gifts through the Christmas Bowl can help provide clean water in South Sudan. Just \$211 can provide a hand-pump, giving clean water to an entire community! To donate, please visit the website, www.actforpeace.org.au.



'Bucket collection' to assist Lawson Rankin, a former student at St Francis Xavier College.

Lawson Rankin recently graduated from St Francis Xavier College and travelled to Bali for an end-of-year holiday. This was cut short after a horror accident left him in a critical condition at the Bali International Medical Centre. The cost of Medivac flights to Sydney and transfers to Newcastle are considerable. Lawson will also have a long and costly rehabilitation journey.

'Bucket collections' will be taken up at all of the Christmas Masses in our region, to assist with Lawson's medical expenses. Thank you in anticipation of your generous support. Further donations will be accepted at the parish office as well as on the collection plate in an envelope marked Lawson Rankin. Please give as generously as you are able.

GOSPEL FOCUS

What's in a name?

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.

Simbang Gabi at Sacred Heart Cathedral

In preparation for the Solemnity of the Lord's birth, Novena Masses are being celebrated at the Sacred Heart Cathedral each evening from **15th to 23rd December**.

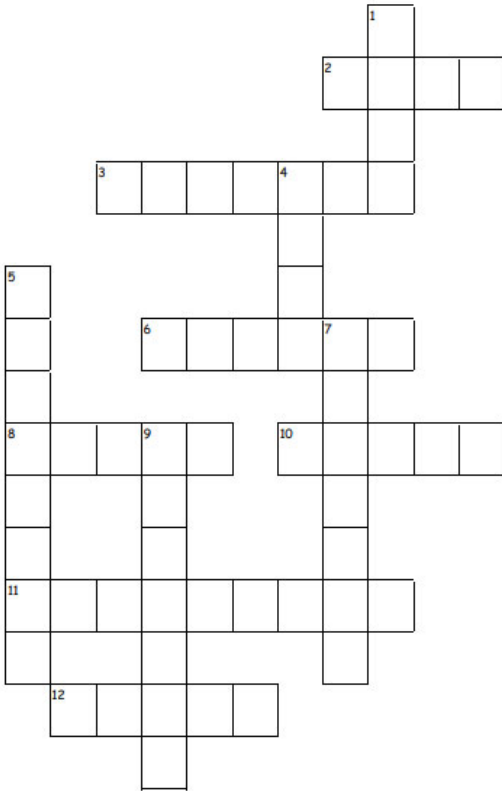
The celebration of the Christmas Novena Masses, also known as Simbang Gabi to Filipinos, is a long tradition brought by the Spanish Friars in the Philippines in 1669. The Novena Masses are in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God, and serve as a preparation for the commemoration 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!*



CROSSWORD

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us

Mt 1:18-24



Across

- 2: Jesus' mother
- 3: with little or no noise
- 6: he was engaged to Mary
- 8: a special messenger of God
- 10: not old
- 11: to make someone feel uncomfortable or self-conscious
- 12: the angel appeared to Joseph in a ...

Down

- 1: a newborn
- 4: the opposite of false
- 5: this name means 'God is with us'
- 7: to give someone your word
- 9: betrothed, to be married

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Jesus Christ is the Son of God

Rom 1:2-4
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4abc R.v. (7c and 10b)
Mt 1:18-24



Try to find these words:

- baby
- death
- dream
- Emmanuel
- engaged
- family
- holy
- human
- Joseph
- Mary
- news
- promised

COMING WEEKEND ROSTERS

The Cathedral	ADULT SERVER	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	COUNTERS
28 Dec 5.30pm	Louise Outram	Michael Fuller Denise Vaughan	Kath Williams, Douglas Burke, Ching Burke, Helen Bridges	Dorothea & Ray
29 Dec 9.30am	Christopher Lovell	Vincia Martin Mary Allado	Cora Armstrong, Betty Stott, Trish O'Dowd, John Askew	
29 Dec 5.00pm	Allen Brierley	David Hayes Les Walters	Clare W, Vera Walker, Jane McNaughton, Elizabeth Keeling	

NEWCASTLE	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
29 Dec 7.30am	Roger Peters K Frasca	Volunteer	R Rossi Ian Thomas

STOCKTON	WELCOMER	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
29 Dec 9.00am	Jan D	Jan D, Mel	Sandra, Lyn	Mel , Wendy, Pat

TIGHES HILL	WELCOMERS	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
29 Dec 8.00am	Jacob Healey Barry Reed	Sophia Wooldridge Xanthe Lamont	Keziah Lamont	Julie Gurr, Peter Ryan, Maureen Hall

THE JUNCTION	WELCOMERS	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	COUNTERS
29 Dec 9.00am	Isaac Flanagan Cheree Flanagan	D/B Mitchell M de Souza	Howlett Family	Eleanora MacDonald, John Cavenagh Christine Dowling	R Hampson R Rossi

BROADMEADOW	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	MINISTER OF COMMUNION	COUNTING TEAM	WELCOMING TEAM
28 Dec 5.30pm	Sr Carol Woodland rsj	Sr Judith Murphy rsm	G Haggerty, R Cathcart, T Casey, A Skehan	Eileen Howard & Robin Cathcart

MAYFIELD WEST	WELCOMER	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
28 Dec 6.00pm	Doreen	J Edstein/Boyes A Oto	N Mundy	L Caelli, M Williamson, R Ahkin