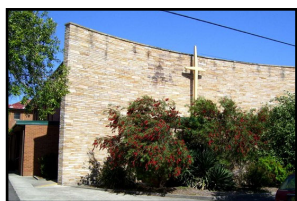




Sacred Heart Cathedral,
Hamilton



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, 8TH DECEMBER 2019 2ND 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)

Second week of Advent

Monday 9 December

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 10 December

7.30am Mass @ The Junction

8.15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9.15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

Wednesday 11 December

7.30am Mass @ The Junction

8am Mass @ Mayfield West

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9.15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

10.30am Anointing Mass @ Fronditha Care
(30 Crebert St, Mayfield)

Thursday 12 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 13 December

Memorial of St Lucy, virgin, martyr

9.15am 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 14 December

Memorial of St John of the Cross, priest, doctor

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 15 December

Third 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

THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

First Reading Is 11:1-10

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse. Peace and justice will triumph.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17.

R. cf. v.7

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

Live in harmony with one another.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

John the Baptist begins to preach in the desert.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading James 5:7-10

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

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



*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.*

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, though as a 'one-off', the December meeting will be held on the **second Wednesday, 11th December**, 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.

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Robert Parr

ANNIVERSARY: Fr Harry Hughes, Eileen Olsen, Gladys Broad, Elizabeth Harvey, Max Moore, May Morgan, Maria Luisa Franceschi, Julia Kelly, Diane Stavros

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



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.

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 available each **Sunday morning from 8.20am to 8.50am**, prior to 9am Mass.

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!*

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. The first on 28th November took us through the process of lectio divina, then on each of the Thursday nights of Advent, we will explore the gospel for the coming Sunday. All welcome!

REGIONAL NOTICES

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.

Men's Breakfast: Monday 9th December at 7.00am in the Parish Centre (with breakfast available from 6.30am). Our guest speaker will be John Hayes of the Tighes Hill Mass Community, who is a member of *Climate Action Newcastle*. All are welcome to hear John talk on how *current* and *new* technologies can assist the environment and our way of life.

Students from St Joseph's Primary School, The Junction and Holy Family Primary School, Merewether Beach, will attend the 12.05pm Mass at the Cathedral on **Friday, 13th December**, to celebrate the end of the school year. Please make these young members of our parish



Let us remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

This weekend **Stockton** continues its **Christmas Appeal and Advent Collection** of goods for Christmas Hampers for the needy in our area. The Advent Collection will continue until next weekend, Sunday, 15th December.

Thank you for your generosity!

St Columban's Year 6 Farewell Mass will be held in the *San Clemente School Hall* at 11am on **Friday, 13th December**. All are welcome to come and celebrate with the children this important milestone in their school lives!

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

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal continues this weekend at Hamilton, St Joseph's and St Mary's. Columban calendars and packets of 10 religious-themed Christmas cards are also available for sale.



Tax deductible donations to the St Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal can be made at any Vinnies shop or by phoning 131812.

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! Thank you to all involved, for nourishing and supporting one another 'in food and in faith formation'! We look forward to starting up again in February 2020!



Many thanks to the members of the Tighes Hill Community who, in November, raised \$215 for Children's Mission Partners.

Stockton and Mayfield Parishioners



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

Parish Holy Land Pilgrimage September 2020

In September 2020, Fr Andrew will be leading a Parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land "In the Footsteps of Jesus", visiting the Dead Sea, Mt Nebo, Petra, the baptismal site of Jesus, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, Mt Tabor, Mt Carmel, Haifa, Jericho, and Jerusalem. There will also be an optional extension to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play. The pilgrims will depart Australia on 3rd September 2020. The number of pilgrims will be limited to heighten the experience for those undertaking the pilgrimage.

For centuries, Christians have gone on pilgrimage, to seek and immerse themselves in the presence of God. Pilgrimage is a journey of faith, allowing the Holy Spirit to renew those who journey. It is an opportunity to seek what our spirit longs for; it's travel with a purpose and faith that bears lasting fruit. Our pilgrimage operator, Harvest Journeys, has many years of experience in facilitating this experience.

More detailed information will be available in coming weeks, but if you would like to know more about the pilgrimage, please speak with Fr Andrew.

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!

OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE REGION

MNICC Christmas Carols to be held at St John's Church, corner of Parry & Dawson Sts, Cooks Hill, this **Sunday evening, 8th December**, from 7.30pm to 8.45pm. Children from the Holy Family School will be participating in this event, so please come along and show your support.

Carols Singalong with the Hunter Valley Chorus at 6.30pm on **Thursday, 12th December**, at Mayfield Baptist Church, Cnr Hanbury & Highfield Streets. A light supper will be provided. For more information, go to www.hunintervalleychorus.com

Carols in the Cloister return this year to St Joseph's Chapel, New England Highway, Lochinvar on **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 good company.



St. Columba's Adamstown Drama Group, 'Bright Sparks', present *'The Toymaker, the Boy and Christmas'* at 2pm on **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.

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.

FIRST AND SECOND COLLECTIONS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Each weekend at our parish Masses, there are two collections. The 1st collection immediately follows the Prayers of the Faithful, while the timing of the 2nd collection may vary (either immediately following the 1st collection, or after communion).

THE FIRST COLLECTION goes to the support of the priests working in parishes and those on special duties. The funds are effectively 'centralized' and are distributed by the Maitland Clergy Central Fund. None of this money goes to the retired priests; their support comes from the Age Pension and from bequests specifically given for the benefit of the retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTION provides the income for all the running expenses of your parish - staff employment, insurance, maintenance, maintaining and operating the Regional Office and the Churches, liturgical supplies, waste collection and, most importantly, parish and regional ministries and services. Surplus funds stay in your parish and are invested to meet the parish's future needs.

First Collection: Currently the only way to contribute to the 1st collection is via a weekly cash contribution to the collection plate.

Second Collection: There are various ways to contribute to the 2nd collection:

1. **Cash** donations on the 2nd collection plate.
2. **Weekly Envelopes** (known as the planned giving scheme) which are placed in the 2nd collection each weekend during Mass. Contributions made via Planned Giving can be offset against any Catholic School Building Levy you may be liable for, when you have one or more children attend a Catholic Primary or High School.
3. **Automated contributions** via your credit card or direct debit. The Catholic Development Fund can make a charge to your nominated credit card or bank account on a monthly, fortnightly or weekly basis according to a signed authority, offering a 'set and forget' option for contributions. Of course you can withdraw your authorisation for these contributions at any time. This type of planned giving is also an eligible offset to the School Building Levy.

If you wish to apply for Weekly Envelopes, set up a periodical contribution or have a monthly contribution activated, please contact the Regional Office in person at 25 Farquhar Street, The Junction, by post to PO Box 6, The Junction 2291, or by emailing your request to newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Many Catholic diocesan and parish works currently helping those in need in the Hunter region are made possible by bequests. Each of us finds different ways to make our mark on the world. One way of doing this is by making a bequest. A bequest is a gift left in a will. When you leave a bequest to the Church, you give a gift that lasts longer than your lifetime, a gift that will always be remembered.

Since 1841 the Catholic Church has been meeting the material and spiritual needs of the people of the Hunter. That need is always growing. The work of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in the parishes of the Newcastle, Mayfield and Stockton Region takes many forms.

After providing for your family, a bequest to your parish is a special way of ensuring the work of the Church in the parishes of the City Pastoral Region continues. Depending on family situations, some bequests are large and some are small, but all are vital to the work of the Church. Please consider donating to your parish to ensure that the work of spreading the message of Jesus Christ can continue.

New Christmas Tradition

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

There are 24 chapters.

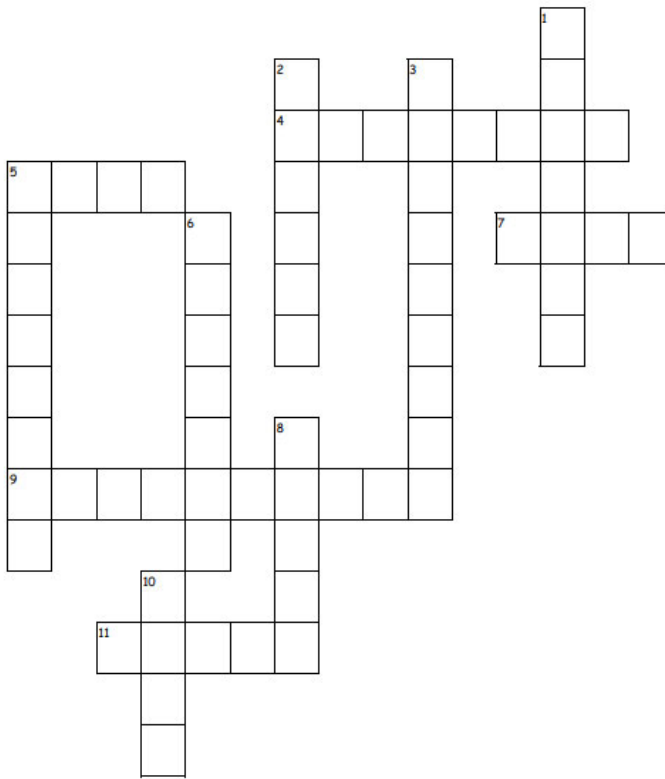
On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!



CROSSWORD

Make a straight path for the Lord

Mt 3:1-9, 11



Across

- 4: yelling, speaking loudly
- 5: bad deeds
- 7: a route for travel
- 9: during baptism God is present in this form (2 words)
- 11: a baptism symbol

Down

- 1: popular footwear in biblical times
- 2: The prophet who spoke of a man who would prepare the way for Christ's coming
- 3: assessment of someone's actions
- 5: not crooked
- 6: John was known as the ...
- 8: where John baptised people
- 10: John wore clothes made of camel's ...

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

From David's family will come a king

Is 11:1-4a, 5-6, 9b
Ps 72:1 and 8, 17 R.v. 7
Rom 15:4-6
Mt 3:1-9, 11

A K I M B S J W T W H V Y B Q
G B N S C R I P T U R E S A I
L O R O B E S M O S E A J P S
V N J F V J A S E Y E I M T A
B G U L R W R W N Z A W Q I I
Y X D G B R D Q A L N G Y S A
N A G X G F P Z P U Y X N T H
A Q E Q V C A L V E S X C X W
H R M M G X B Z F O L L O W A
I O E W O L V E S R I V E R T
E H N T F B Q M N K V Q T T E
X G T B W C H E E R F U L J R
M S G E L O Y B E F C O C F L
F J Z D O M J K Q B F G W Y R
C W R I X S C A M E L S S Q S

Try to find these words:

- Baptist
- calves
- camels
- cheerful
- follow
- Isaiah
- judgement
- river
- robes
- scriptures
- water
- wolves

COMING WEEKEND ROSTERS

The Cathedral	ADULT SERVER	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	COUNTERS
14 Dec 5.30pm	Peter Owens	Kath Williams Denise Vaughan	Mansoor Jessa, Rose Jessa, Pedrita Spence, M Simmons	Luke & Susana
15 Dec 9.30am	Christopher Lovell	M Jones Kerri Morante	Betty Stott, Frances Barber, Trish O'Dowd, John Askew	
15 Dec 5.00pm	Allen Brierley	Sue O'Sullivan James O'Sullivan	Elizabeth Keeling, Vera Walker	

NEWCASTLE	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
15 Dec 7.30am	K Frasca Roger Peters	Volunteer	C Prider P Clark

STOCKTON	WELCOMER	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
15 Dec 9.00am	Luisa	Helen O'B, Sue M	Moira, Janine	Stan, Harry, Angela

TIGHES HILL	WELCOMERS	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
15 Dec 8.00am	Moya Lantry Annemaree Turner	Mark Toohey Pam Tierney	Brian Dore Barbara Dore	Val O'Hara, Anton Podgorelec, Mary Samwell

THE JUNCTION	WELCOMERS	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	COUNTERS
15 Dec 9.00am	Des Holz Anna Holz	Michael Alexander Eleanora Macdonald	Whittaker Family	Elizabeth Hickling, Michael Alexander Pam Dagwell	G Radecki M Williams

BROADMEADOW	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	MINISTER OF COMMUNION	COUNTING TEAM	WELCOMING TEAM
14 Dec 5.30pm	Daniel Close Monica Murphy	Pat Fitzpatrick	G Haggerty, R Cathcart, T Casey, A Skehan	Eileen Howard & Robin Cathcart

MAYFIELD WEST	WELCOMERS	MINISTERS OF THE WORD	PROCESSION WITH GIFTS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
14 Dec 6.00pm	Diane & Doreen	K Mernagh T Oto	D Bleakley	Sister Ann K Williamson, G Mundy