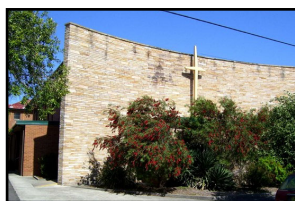


Sacred Heart Cathedral,  
Hamilton



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, 5TH APRIL 2020**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

*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 James Odoh  
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller  
Fr Peter Thoai  
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

## Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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## Regional Office Staff

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

## 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.

### IMPORTANT TO NOTE!

The COVID-19 situation means the churches are all now closed and public celebrations of Mass and sacraments are all cancelled. This includes all weekday and weekend Masses, the Novena, the Chrism Mass, the ceremonies of Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

There will be no baptisms, nor will reconciliation be available in any church.

Until further notice, there will be no meetings of parish groups in the region. This includes meetings at the City Region Catholic Centre at 25 Farquhar Street, The Junction.

Attendance at weddings is limited to the bride and groom, the celebrant and two witnesses (five people in total). Attendance at funerals is limited to ten mourners. In both instances, the 'one person per 4 square metres' rule must be observed.

While we cannot currently run our regular book club meetings, we have an alternative! 'Zoom' technology offers free video conferencing for sessions of up to 40 minutes. We will use this for our book club meeting at 6.30pm this Sunday, 5th April, when we will share our thoughts on the book, '*Wearing Paper Dresses*', by Anne Brinsden. If you would like to participate in future book club meetings, please email the parish office and we will respond with instructions.



### ***Current contact arrangements for the Regional Office***

Please do not attend the office at 25 Farquhar Street, The Junction in person.

All inquiries are to be made via email to [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au) or by phone on 4979 1101

### ***An Act of Spiritual Communion***



My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

**Bishop Bill will be celebrating Sunday Mass** in the Cathedral and he invites you to join with him in prayer from home. You will be able to watch by Crtl + clicking on this link at 9.30am on Sunday: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/> ...or use the same link to watch at a later time.

Share the link with family and friends, and let's gather online to pray as a community at this difficult time of physical isolation.

The Diocese is also working on live-streaming Holy Week liturgies, but this has not been confirmed. Just try the above link on those days.

To support your prayer life, you can also access resources from the following links:

<http://mnnews.today/>

[www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus](http://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus)

[www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess](http://www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess)

[www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray](http://www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray)

[www.dow.org.au](http://www.dow.org.au)

Lumen Christi YouTube Channel

### **City Pastoral Region Online and Telephone groups**

Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region have started two groups to connect and pray with each other. You and your friends are welcome to join.

#### ***Praying the Sunday Gospel***

Each Tuesday 5.00-5.45pm

via internet: <https://zoom.us/j/147952077>

via phone: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 147952077#

#### ***Praying the Rosary***

Each Thursday 5.30-5.50pm

via internet: <https://zoom.us/j/654882094>

via phone: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 654882094#

**Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches.** *We have been invited to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.*

Gracious God, we give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**First Reading Is 50:4-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied  
he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,

so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint;

I know I shall not be shamed.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2**

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;

let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

2. Many dogs have surrounded me,

a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet.

I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

3. They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,

my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren

and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise;

all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

**Second Reading Phil 2:6-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names, so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:8-9**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us even to death,  
dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high

and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel Mt 27:11-54**

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands

in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a

reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

On this final Sunday of the Lenten season, Mass begins with a commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. He arrives on a domestic animal, a donkey, not on a warlike horse, much less in a chariot. Though acclaimed enthusiastically with palm branches and hosannas, he comes in peace and subverts popular expectations of a political messiah.



A highlight of today's liturgy is the proclamation of the Passion narrative. We already know that in a week's time we shall be celebrating resurrection. Hearing the full story of Jesus' suffering and death today cautions us not to try and get ahead of ourselves. We may be tempted to try and take a short cut to glory. Victory certainly beckons, but it will not be ours before we have accompanied Jesus on the way of the cross.

### **IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**



#### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**ANNIVERSARY:** Betty Haggerty, Tess O'Neill, Monsignor Vincent Casey, Fr Patrick Hand

**SICK:** Bill Parker, Elizabeth Evans, Terry Davies, John Belcher, Libby Oates, Graeme Burrage, Brian Swift, Monica Bound, Peter McCabe, Joan Haynes, Tom Towers, Kerry Davies, Lawson Rankin, Patricia (Pat) Gillett

**SPECIAL INTENTION:** Please pray for all those throughout the world who are affected by COVID-19

*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](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads).*