



**Sacred Heart Cathedral
Hamilton**



**St Joseph
The Junction**



**St Mary, Star of the Sea
Newcastle**



**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Tighes Hill**



**St Laurence O'Toole
Broadmeadow**



**Christ the King
Mayfield West**



**St Peter-in-Chains
Stockton**

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

SUNDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2020
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr James Odoh
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller
Fr Peter Thoai
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
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Debbie Ryan (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager—Interim*)
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.

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

Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time

Monday—17th August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—18th August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—19th August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—20th August

Memorial of St Bernard

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—21st August

Memorial of St Pius X

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am –12-pm Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—22nd August

Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:30am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Broadmeadow

4:40pm Rosary @ Mayfield West

5:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—23rd August

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9am Mass @ The Junction

9am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed: [https:// www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/)

10:30am Italian Mass @ Broadmeadow

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

One bright Sunday morning, everyone in the town got up early and went to the local church. Before Mass started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking about their lives, their families. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from the devil incarnate. Soon everyone was evacuated from the Church, except for one elderly lady who sat calmly in her pew, not moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that Satan was in her presence.

Now this confused Satan a bit, so he walked up to the older lady and said, 'Don't you know who I am?' The woman replied, 'I sure do.' Satan asked, 'Aren't you afraid of me?' 'No, certainly not' said the woman. Satan was a little perturbed at this and queried, 'Why aren't you afraid of me?' The woman calmly replied, 'Because I've been married to your brother for 48 years.'



Until quite recently in many cultures around the world events or experiences that had no ready explanation were put down to evil forces. This was certainly true in Jesus' day. Diseases, physical deformities, mental illnesses, accidents, bad weather patterns and defeats in battle were attributed either to God's vengeance or the work of a demon. Although we no longer hold this to be true, we still hear this line from some people today.

The Syro-Phoenician woman considers herself cursed for having a daughter who is tormented by a demon. It is very unlikely that her daughter is possessed by the devil. She probably had a chronic illness that could not be cured. Furthermore, the woman is also considered cursed by others because she is a Gentile, a non-Jew. In fact this story is unsettling and rather unflattering to Jesus on several levels.

Because of her ethnicity and religion the disciples do not think she should ask for anything from Jesus. He seems to concur with them. If it wasn't for the woman's courage and persistence, she would never

have got what she wanted. And by Jesus referring to them as dogs, he seems to agree with the contempt with which the Jews held the Gentiles.

Again it is the woman's quick wit and faith which turns the situation around. She domesticates the racial slur and argues that if she is to be considered a dog she is not a wild one but of the house variety where she should be able to enjoy the leftovers. The power of her insight and the rightness of her cause catches Jesus off-guard, her daughter is healed and everyone is taught a lesson about how the Kingdom of God breaks through in the most extraordinary ways.

This story also tells us of the power of intercessory prayer. The woman goes through her ordeal not for herself but for her daughter. Her faith in Jesus is the vehicle by which someone else's life is enriched. So too for us. As Christians many of us regularly tell others, whom we know are in need, that we will pray for them. Often these people, some who do not share our faith, are touched by this kindness.

When we make our prayer intercessory, either at home or in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, it can be our finest hour. We can learn a lot about a parish from its intercessions. It can be the time when we forget about ourselves and our needs for a while and ask for the needs of someone else, even if we don't know them. This type of prayer has the possibility of helping us place our lives in context and reminding us that while we have a seat at the world's table, others are at our feet scavenging for scraps.

The best prayer reminds us that we have to get down and get dirty and work to raise up all of God's children to the places of honour which everyone deserves.

© Richard Leonard SJ



ANNIVERSARIES: Karen Rabbitt, Margaret Hogg, Moira Thomas, Audrey Gilholme, Bill Wooden, Sheelagh Ruggero, Leonard Laurence Deed DFC

SICK: Patricia Williams, Catherine Horner (Bridges), Maria Lester

RECENTLY DECEASED: Michael Hanson

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please continue to pray for all those throughout the world who are affected by COVID-19 and for the victims and families affected by the explosion that rocked Beirut.

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

Prayer for the people of Lebanon

United with people around the world, we hold in our hearts and in our prayer the people of Beirut, Lebanon.

We pray, God of all people, that your Spirit of healing and protection be with the people of Beirut and Lebanon at this time. May the good news of peace and loving care be with all who live in Beirut, especially those suffering as a result of this disaster.

May the terrifying sounds of explosion, ambulance sirens and the cries of those trapped in buildings give way to sounds of courage and hope.

May the smell of acrid smoke, burning buildings and remains soon give way to a renewed sense of God's loving presence and strength.

May there be real cooperation between rescue workers, government personnel and civilians so that true justice and peace might break through for all and people's deep suffering alleviated.

Our Lady of Lebanon, pray for us and for all who suffer in Beirut.



TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading

Is 56:1.6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean?

Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communion Antiphon

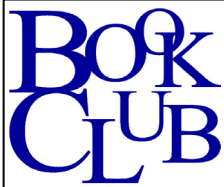
Ps 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

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We are continuing our 'Zoom' book club meetings. At 6.30pm on Sunday, 6th September we will share our thoughts on the book, *Chilbury Ladies' Choir*, by Jennifer Ryan. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please send an email to the parish office, newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Praying the Sunday Gospel: Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region are invited to connect and pray with each other from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm. You and your friends are welcome to join via the internet:

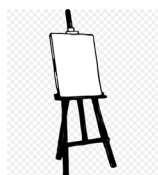
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86560170676>



Hello Hunter helps people who are feeling isolated, lonely or anxious. Volunteers are available to make a friendly call, deliver essentials, assist in finding specialised help or on request pray with the person. Hello Hunter has a call centre, which takes requests for assistance, then neighbourhood hubs mobilise their volunteers. Hubs are formed according to suburb and postcode. The goal is to have the person in need assisted by their nearest neighbour. Hello Hunter are now looking for hub leaders and volunteers. Volunteers need to submit a form, validated by their local parish priest or parish leader. Go to hellohunter.org.au for more information.

Making it real art competition

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement *Making it real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world*, affirms the positive possibilities for encounter and solidarity offered by new digital media, while warning of those elements of our digital world that may be harmful. The Statement points out that we are called not just to be inhabitants of this new digital world, but active citizens shaping it. Artists are invited to create a work based on the themes in the Social Justice Statement. Works must be on A3 paper, with a 150-word artist statement accompanying the work. Entries close Friday 14 August. The exhibition will be online. \$150 prize for each category (Stage 3,4,5,6 and adult). For more information contact rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au



Sharing our story

Everyone has a story.

No matter how ordinary yours may seem, we've all got a story to tell and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it.

As we enter a fallow period, we have been given the gift of time. A time to reflect on our life, a life of being faithful people.

We invite you to share your story.

You could use the following questions as a guide.

Who are the people who guided your faith journey?

How did they do that?

Describe some defining moments of your faith journey? What made them significant?

How has your faith been reflected in your work, your hobbies, your values, your choices, and your priorities at various times in your life?

In what ways has your faith guided and supported you over your lifetime? How has your church/faith community guided and supported you?

We hope to use these stories as part of a Diocesan Formation and Education project.

Please send your story to:

shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au



From its inception, the Catholic Church has provided for those in need.

As part of her mandate to bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ, the Church is deeply committed to social assistance, education and healthcare.

What many do not know though, is that the Church herself often requires urgent help in countries affected by displacement or catastrophe. In addition, more than 200 million Christians cannot freely exercise their faith; they suffer persecution and oppression for their love of Christ.

Unlike charities which exist primarily to provide humanitarian and social relief, **Aid to the Church in Need** is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction.

Aid to the Church in Need has long been described as a school of love. Countless people have discovered and learned the essence of Christianity as they make spiritual and material offerings to help build a bridge enabling the suffering and persecuted Church to live and witness their own faith.

For more information and ways to donate go to :

aidtochurch.org

TIGHTENING OF COVID-19-RELATED RESTRICTIONS —24 JULY

There has been a tightening of COVID-19-related restrictions that had been previously announced by the NSW Government last week.

Because the presence of COVID-19 in our community remains a threat to the health and safety of the Australian and NSW communities, the NSW Government has determined that the public health requirements demands the tightening of some restrictions in order to protect our community. While this tightening once again impacts on the life of our Church, and may be a disappointment to some, we need to be conscious of more than just our own needs and wants in the face of the current pandemic event. As Christians, we should have not hesitancy in embracing personal sacrifice for the sake of the health and safety of the Australian community.

The announced tightening of restrictions will again come at a cost, but we must remain vigilant and disciplined in observing our moral and legal obligation towards our brothers and sisters and ensure we do all that we must to restrict the further spread of COVID-19. We look forward to a future easing of restrictions, and the opportunity to gather more freely as a worshipping community to celebrate our liturgical life in all its fullness.

Easing Taking Effect 24 July

Amendments to the current Public Health Order have been gazetted to give effect to the NSW Government announcement. The limit on the number of persons who can be present in the Cathedral is now calculated as the lesser of allowing 4 square metres per person within the building, or 100 persons.

The size of the Cathedral building means that we are able to have the full limit of **100 persons**, which limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, as well as the Cathedral's availability for private prayer.

Opening Hours of the Cathedral

The Cathedral will continue to be open Monday through Friday from approximately 8am until approximately 5pm. You are welcome to attend the Cathedral during these hours for private prayer or a time of silence.

On weekends, the Cathedral will only be open when in use for Mass or other scheduled liturgies, generally from about one hour before the scheduled start time until approximately 30 minutes after conclusion. This decision is based on the increased need to clean the Cathedral after all liturgical

celebrations, which naturally are increased over the weekend. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause but feel this is the most appropriate course of action in the current circumstances.

Continuing Restrictions

Although the number of persons who can be in the Cathedral has increased, there is still a requirement for the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in the Cathedral (e.g. Mass, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, etc.). If a 'discrete' group attends, e.g. a family, a husband and wife, people from the same household, etc., only one (adult) member of the group is required to provide their contact details. The contact details that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival.

We will provide a Contact Form at the door to permit this, and we have also provided an 'online' version via SignIn.com.au which permits you to sign in via your mobile phone.

The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, refraining from communal singing, etc. remain in place for the time being, as does the requirement to refrain from physical acts of devotion that involve touching or kissing icons or statues.

Because of the need to ensure health and safety, the previously advised adaptations to the celebration of Masses and other liturgical celebrations will continue to be observed.

To manage the entrance to and exit from the Cathedral, only one door – the side door closest to the Diocesan office building – will be used for the foreseeable future. This entrance has had a hand sanitiser unit mounted on the wall for convenience and provides adequate 'desk space' to allow for the recording of contact details. The use of one door will also permit the management of numbers within the Cathedral for Mass and other liturgical celebrations.

Requirements for Attending Mass

There is no need to register in advance to attend Mass. If you wish to return to Mass, you are at liberty to do so, though there will still be the need to ensure that no more than 100 persons are at any particular Mass.

We ask those who are particularly at risk – the elderly, those with compromised health, those who are sick – to refrain from returning to Mass for the sake of their own health. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass given by the Bishop remains in place in these circumstances.

For Sunday Masses at St Joseph's, The Junction and St Mary's, Newcastle, the registration process still applies. To register, please visit the website, www.newcastlecatholic.org.au or contact the Regional Office on 4979 1101 or via email, newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

If you wish to attend the Saturday evening vigil at **Broadmeadow**, please contact Gwen on 49675010 or Fr James on 0402 223415 or via email, jamesodoh768@yahoo.com

If you wish to attend the Sunday morning Mass at **Tighes Hill**, please contact Fr James on 0402 223415 or via email, jamesodoh768@yahoo.com

Important to note! If you reach voicemail when you call to register for Mass, **please leave your name and phone number and clearly identify which Mass you wish to attend.** We need to be able to contact you on Friday afternoon/evening, to confirm your attendance. We received some voicemail messages at the Regional Office this week where phone numbers were not provided and we could not complete the registration. We remind you that if you are not registered, you cannot attend Mass.

We thank you for your understanding during these difficult times and appreciate your continuing patience and support in relation to the registration requirements. These are processes we must follow in order to comply with the current Public Health Order.

Marriage and Relationship Education



Do you know someone who is getting married or someone in a relationship who would like to know more about how to create strong, stable relationships? CatholicCare Social Services Hunter Manning offers pre and post marriage and relationship education workshops and individual sessions that explore the research around intentional connected relationships. They have the aim of supporting couples to build and maintain 'relationship satisfied' partnerships.

Online workshops will be run soon.
Go to www.catholiccare.org.au

Safeguarding training in parishes



Who is this for: If you are a paid or unpaid worker of the parish and have never attended any Safeguarding training (formerly Child Protection training) or last attended more than 6 years ago, this is for you. If you have attended child protection training a few years ago and want a refresher, you are also welcome to attend.

How do I register: Registrations are made via Rebecca Mahony, Learning & Development Officer, Human Resources on 4979 1322 or email HR-Training@mn.catholic.org.au.

If I have a question: For any further information about the course or questions in relation to your participation, or to check on your attendance history, please call the Office of Safeguarding directly on 4979 1390 or email at oosgtraining@mn.catholic.org.au.

This training will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, attendance is restricted to 10 people per session, social distancing will be maintained and people will be asked normal screening questions to check their well-being and potential exposure to the virus. For more information on what precautions will be in place, please go to [Office of Safeguarding COVID-19](#) web page.

DATES AND TIMES

Monday 17/08/2020

10am-2pm Toohey Room,
841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Saturday, 29/08/2020

10am-2pm Toohey Room,
841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Thursday, 3/09/2020

10am-2pm Mackillop Hall, Charlestown

Saturday, 12/09/2020

9am-1pm Mackillop Hall, Charlestown

Saturday, 12/09/2020

12pm-4pm Disney Room, CatholicCare, Cardiff

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

21st Ordinary Sunday

Isaiah 22:19-23

Romans 11:33-36

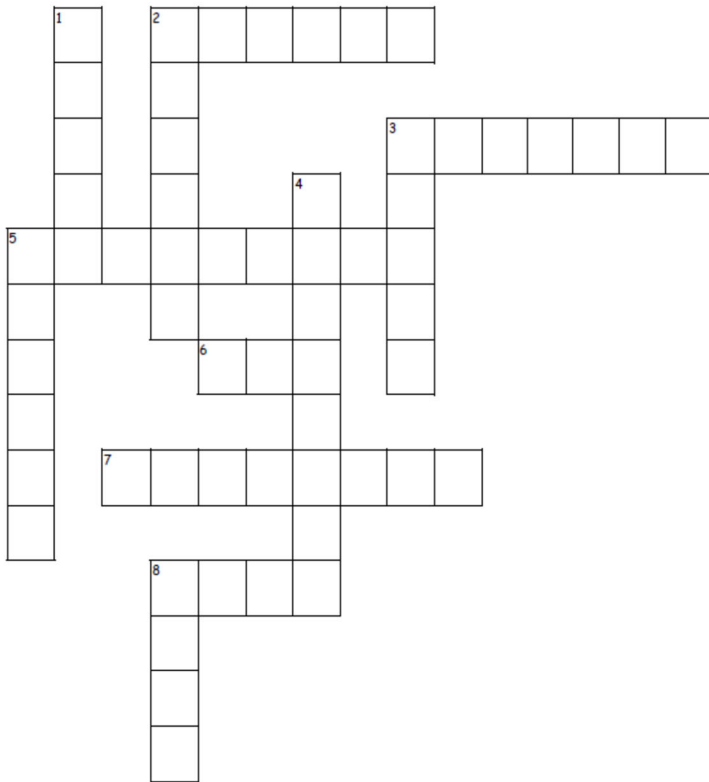
Matthew 16:13-20

Weekday and Sunday readings can be found at
www.usccb.org

CROSSWORD

God will come to save us

Is 56:1. 6-7
Ps 67:1-2. 4. 5 & 7. R. v.4
Mt 15:21-28



Across

- 2: truthful
- 3: the Jewish day of worship
- 5: to have a party
- 6: a four-legged animal that barks
- 7: a very high piece of land
- 8: reasonable

Down

- 1: a place where people dwell
- 2: cured
- 3: Jesus described the people of Israel as like a flock of lost _____
- 4: father is to son, as mother is to what?
- 5: Jesus spoke to a woman who came from this place
- 8: what we eat

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

God will come to save us

Is 56:1. 6-7
Ps 67:1-2. 4. 5 & 7. R. v.4
Mt 15:21-28

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

Try to find these words:

Canaan
celebrate
daughter
dog
fair
food
healed
honest
house
mountain
Sabbath
sheep