



**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, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-FIFTH 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

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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)

Twenty-fifth Week of Ordinary Time

Monday—21st September

Feast of Saint Matthew

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—22nd September

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—23rd September

Memorial of St Pius of Pietrelcina

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—24th September

The Feast of Our Lady Of Mercy—Mercy Day

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—25th September

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—26th September

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— 27th September

26th Sunday of 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 via the Diocesan website:

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

The film *Forrest Gump* was once described as the 'battler's triumph'. On one level it was about how the last will be first. This story picks up where the film left off.

Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. On arrival St Peter informs him that there are three questions he has to answer before he can enter.

- 1) What days of the week begin with the letter T?
- 2) How many seconds are there in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

Forrest answers straight away, 'Shucks, there are two days in the week beginning with the letter T - Today and Tomorrow.'

St Peter replies, 'That's not what I was thinking, but you have a point. How about the next one?'

'I think the only answer can be twelve.'

'Twelve?' St Peter asks. 'Shucks, there's gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd. . . .' 'Hold it', interrupts St Peter, 'I see where you're going with this. Let's go to the final question.'

'Sure', says Forrest, it's Andy!'

'Andy?' exclaims an exasperated St Peter. 'OK, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with Andy as God's first name?'

'Shucks, that was the easiest one of all', Forrest replied. 'I learned it from the hymn . . . ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own.'

St Peter opened the pearly gates and yelled, 'Run Forrest, run!'



In today's Gospel, in which the first labourers are paid the same wage as the afternoon workers, what the early birds didn't reckon on was that they could have come much later and got the same deal.

We would cynically call the afternoon workers, 'Johnny-come-latelies' and chances are if we were confronted with the same situation, we would be with the complainers.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARE EXERCISING
SOCIAL DISTANCING
BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MASS**

This story was important to the early Church because generations of Jews waited and longed for the Messiah and, like the first workers, they were the first to respond to the call of Jesus and to work in the field of his Kingdom. For some of the early Jewish-Christians, including St Peter, it came as a surprise that the Lord was calling Gentiles to the life and work of Jesus' Kingdom as well.

We can imagine that it rankled some of the early birds to see these Johnny-come-latelies taking charge of the Christian mission. This wasn't how it was supposed to be!

This story, then, is a wonderful commentary on how fickle we are and, luckily for us, how extraordinarily generous God is. What we see in ourselves and others is only a glimpse of what God is like. God is so much more: more loving; more forgiving; more compassionate; and more just.

And because God is so much greater than anything we could ask or imagine, we are constantly surprised at how he turns our expectations, our fears and predictions upside down. We constantly look for God in the big and spectacular and he comes to us poor, naked, sick, in prison and hungry. God speaks through the most surprising people at the most surprising times.

That's why those people who have decided that God can only work in certain ways, places, people, institutions and times, so often end up at the end of the line when it comes to religious wisdom. Michael McGirr in his excellent book, *Things You Get for Free*, argues that there is a crisis of belief today, but that it's not the way we often think. In a brilliant turning of the tables, McGirr says that the crisis of belief is that people inside the Church sometimes cannot believe that people outside its traditional structures can experience the love of Jesus. God loves and guides the Church, but is not bound by it. God is busy about making sure those who might be last have a chance to come in first.

Rather than resent this, however, let's thank God for being bigger than we are and for being just to all of us, no matter when, or how, we get the Word.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.



ANNIVERSARIES: Kay Varnum, Stephanie Shortland, Merle Peters, Noela Dryden, Kevin (Chip) Brain, John Fleming, Joseph Grgas, The Hon John Father AC, Pat Cunningham, Mavis Sheedy, George Babic, Trevor Thornton, Francisco Gahum, Menas Duran, Alex Cabilin, Atty Harry Bacal, Gorgonio Digal, Rogato Daggpin, Darrell Smith, Rogelio Esik, Portia Balitactac Pascual, Felicidad Bautista Jimenez, Elisa Pena, Desanto Joyce, Rev John Barry Gahan, Rev Mark Carlton.

SICK: Ehtashan Nadvi, Lee Murphy, Dr Philip Law, Ray Callen, Catherine Horner, Pat Fitzpatrick, John Ryan, Luke Davies, Baby Archer, Margaret Byron, Robert Berwick, Rohan Campbell, Connie Jennings, Fin Conn, Fergus Conn, Elkie Conn

RECENTLY DECEASED: Judyth Radecki, Lola Orrett, Sr Andrina Ryan rsm.

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

SEASON OF CREATION - 1 Sept – 4 Oct

“Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.” (Pope John Paul II, 1990 World Day of Peace Message, no. 16)

“The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole”. (Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate [Charity in Truth], 2009, no. 48)

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>

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon

Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Gloria

***Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.***

We praise You. We bless You. We adore you.
We glorify You.

We give You thanks for Your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father:

You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the holy one. You alone are the
Lord. You alone, are the most high Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:5-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts

We pause for silent reflection.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144: 2-3; 8-9. 17-18. R.v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name
for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his
greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to
anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is just in all ways and loving in all his
deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him
from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Phil 1:20-24. 27

For me to live is Christ

We pause for silent reflection.

Gospel Acclamation *(Please stand)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of
your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:48-56

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

We pause for silent reflection.

Homily

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down
from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with
the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, *(all bow)*
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father
almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your
Resurrection until you come again.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we
proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and
Resurrection you have set us free

Communion Acclamation

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Acknowledgements

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LATIN MASS

Latin Mass recommenced in our Diocese last week.

The Latin Mass is celebrated on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Sundays of the month at **St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle, at 10:15am.**

Latin Mass is celebrated by a visiting Priest who travels to us from Sydney.

All are welcome.



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezek 18:25-28

Phil 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

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



CATHEDRAL "TAP & GO" DONATION POINT

With COVID-19 being recognised globally as a threat to public health, it is important for us to take all possible steps to mitigate the associated risks. To that end, we have introduced an electronic 'tap & go' donation point at the Cathedral. Cash donations via the regular collection methods are still gratefully received, but the electronic donation option is available to those who prefer reduced cash-handling.

The donation point is co-located with the cash collection box near the side transept. It has a pre-configured donation amount of \$5 and will accept donations electronically from any Visa or Mastercard contactless card. It is also compatible with mobile wallet apps and paywave wristbands. For donations of more than \$5, it is simply a matter of 'tapping' the desired number of times. The funds will be credited securely to the parish bank account as 'second collection' donations.

COVID numbers in Australia may have been smaller than in other parts of the world, but we must remain vigilant in all our activities. Providing the electronic donation option is part of our commitment to adopting practices that will minimise the risk of community transmission of the virus. We continue to pray for all who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and for courage in the face of the uncertainties it presents.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY



24TH SEPTEMBER

This special feast will be celebrated at the **8.15am Mass at the Cathedral on Thursday, 24 September.**

In 1827, Catherine McAuley (1778–1841) established the House of Mercy in Baggot Street, Dublin and four years later, founded the Sisters of Mercy.

Mercy Day is a wonderful opportunity for all Mercy Sisters, their associates and partners in ministry to celebrate and rejoice with Mary, the Mother of Mercy, the patron saint of the Mercy Order.

COVID-19-RELATED ADAPTATIONS

The presence of COVID-19 in our community requires the implementation and observation of a number of adaptations to our 'normal' way of life, both in the community and in our churches.

Some of these adaptations are mandated by Public Health Orders; others are based on sound advice provided by the NSW Health Department. All of them are deemed necessary to protect our community from the continuing danger posed by COVID-19.

While restrictions and adaptations impact 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 no hesitancy in embracing personal sacrifice for the sake of the health and safety of the Australian community.

We are called to remain vigilant and disciplined in observing our moral and legal obligation towards our brothers and sisters and to 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.

Maximum Number of Persons in Churches

Under the current Public Health Order, the limit on the number of persons who can be present in a church is now calculated as the lesser of allowing 4 square metres per person within the building, or 100 persons.

In our Region, those limits are:

Sacred Heart Cathedral	100
St Mary's, Newcastle	20
St Joseph's, The Junction	50
Mary Immaculate, Tighes Hill	55
St Laurence O'Toole, Broadmeadow	55
St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton	70
Christ the King, Mayfield West	70

The limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, as well as the church's availability for private prayer.

Provision of Contact Details

The Public Health Order requires the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in a church (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.

A Contact Form will be provided at the door to permit the collection of these details. The Cathedral also provides an 'online' version via SignIn.com.au which permits you to sign in via your mobile phone.

General Requirements

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.

Liturgical rituals have been adapted, and will continue to be adapted, in order to ensure the health and safety of all parishioners and visitors to our churches.

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.

Other Information

Other information has been produced by the Diocese and compiled into a single reference document. The most current version of this document can be found on the 'Downloads' page of the Region's website— www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads/

Opening Hours of Churches

The Cathedral will 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.

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.

Other churches in the Region will be open at the times they were normally open pre-COVID-19.

Requirements for Attending Mass

Cathedral: 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 capacity limits will need to be observed at all Masses.

St Mary's Newcastle & St Joseph's, The Junction:

Registration in advance is required for Sunday Mass. To register, visit the Regional website, contact the Regional Office on 4979 1101, or email the Regional Office via newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au. **Please note that once you have registered you will only be contacted if you are UNABLE to attend Mass.**

Broadmeadow:

Registration in advance is required. To register, please contact Gwen on 4967 5010, or Fr James on 0402 223415, or via email, jamesodoh768@yahoo.com.

Tighes Hill: Registration in advance is required. To register, please contact Fr James on 0402 223 415 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 remind you that if you are not registered, you are not able to 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 contents of the current Public Health Order.

BOOKCLUB

We are continuing our 'Zoom' book club meetings. At 6.00pm on Sunday 4 October, we will share our thoughts on the book, *Fled*, by Meg Keneally.

If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please send an email to the Regional Office,

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING IN PARISHES

The last planned session of safeguard training for this Parish is on Wednesday, 23 September at the Regional Office, 25 Farquhar St, The Junction. It will run from 9:30am until 1:30pm.

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. You are also welcome to attend if you feel you need a refresher.

Registrations can be made via Rebecca Mahony, Learning & Development Officer, Human Resources on 4979 1322 or HR-Training@mn.catholic.org.au.

Hellene O'Neil will be facilitating this training for our Parish. It will be a relaxed and open forum whilst being informative.

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 wellbeing 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.

PRAYER FOR HSC STUDENTS

We pray for those preparing for their HSC. Father we ask that they especially feel your closeness during this period.

Give them calm hearts and quiet confidence in the knowledge that you hold them in the palm of your hand.

Bless them with keen understanding and retentive memory.

Give them the ability to grasp things correctly, be exact in their explanations and express themselves clearly.

Point out the beginning, direct their progress and help them in the completion of each of their responses.

Holy Spirit send them your gifts of wisdom and knowledge

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

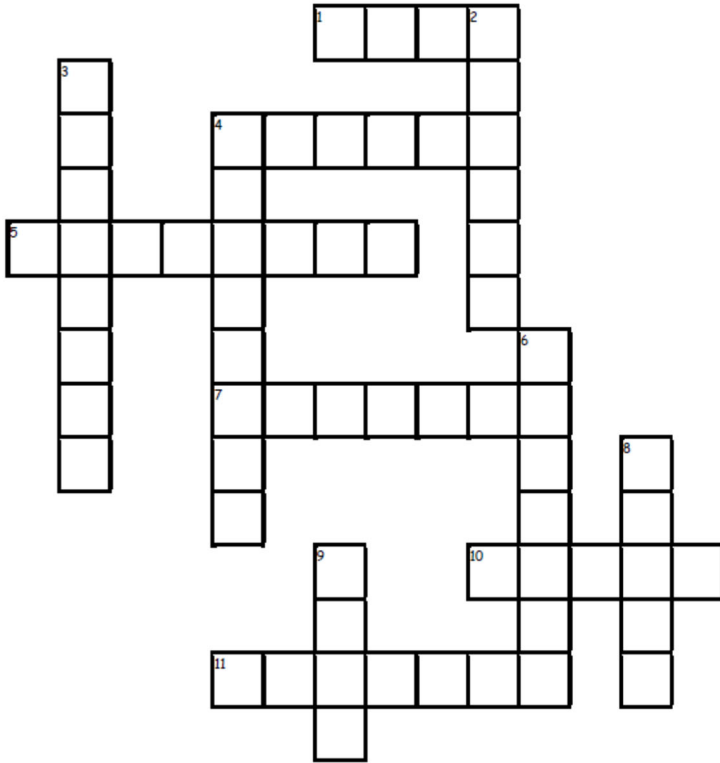
Amen



CROSSWORD

The Lord is near to those who call

Is 55:6-9
Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18, R. v.18a
Mt 20:1-16a



Across

- 1: close by
- 4: a place where people buy and sell food and goods
- 5: the owner of the vineyard was _____ with his money
- 7: to pardon an offence
- 10: discovered
- 11: people who work

Down

- 2: to go back to where you came from
- 3: a farm where grapes are grown
- 4: forgiving and compassionate
- 6: envious of someone else
- 8: we use this to buy things
- 9: to change direction

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord is near to those who call

Is 55:6-9
Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18, R. v.18a
Mt 20:1-16a

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

Try to find these words:

- forgive
- found
- generous
- jealous
- market
- merciful
- money
- near
- return
- turn
- vineyard
- workers