



**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
Broadmeadow**



**Christ the King
Mayfield West**



**St Peter-in-Chains
Stockton**

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

SUNDAY, 13TH DECEMBER 2020
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT, YEAR B

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)

Third Week of Advent

Monday— 14th December

The Memorial of St John of the Cross

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday— 15th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:15am Rosary @ Stockton

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—16th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—17th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—18th December

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West (Parish Hall)

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—19th December

10:30am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Broadmeadow

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday— 20th December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed via the Diocesan website:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/

No Latin Masses during December

10:30am Italian Mass @ Broadmeadow

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

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

PARISH NOTICES

PHONE - A - FRIEND

As we lead into the Christmas season and especially now, with the easing of restrictions, it would be timely for each of us to consider making contact with someone we have not seen for a while.



A phone call, a note in the letter box, an email or even dropping in with a magazine, the parish Bulletin or just yourself; to say "Hi, how are you doing?"

Many people have been isolated for months since the initial lockdown and contact from someone from the Parish could make a big difference to their day.

So this Christmas along with our Advent liturgies, let's put our prayer to practical use by reaching out in these coming weeks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.



PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will close at 5:00pm on 24 Dec and reopen at 9:00am on 4 Jan 2021.

We wish all a Happy, Holy and Safe Christmas and a bright 2021.

MASS AND NOVENA

Recommencing 2 January 2021

At Sacred Heart Cathedral

9:30am



THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled and the star is gone from the sky.

When kings and the princes are home and the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins:

to heal the broken hearted,
to set prisoners free,
to heal the cities,
to unite families,
to build the nations and feed the poor,
to wage peace and make music in the heart.

PRAYING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL THROUGH ADVENT: Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region and across the Diocese are invited to connect and pray with each other from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and through artists images of the Gospel message. Each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm. You and your friends are welcome to join via the internet:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/92777151360>

Password: Prayer

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS: If you would like to take part in the Adore Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections, booklets are now available at a cost of \$5 from the Parish Office.

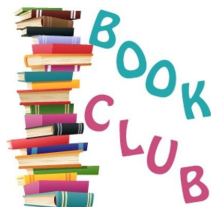


CAROLS ACROSS THE HUNTER

Rhema FM presents a video stream featuring churches and groups from across the Hunter performing Christmas songs.

The event will be streaming on their Facebook page, Youtube channel and at www.CarolsAcrossTheHunter.com.au at **6pm on Saturday, December 19.**

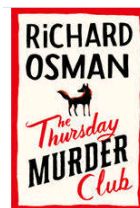
The Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir will be performing as well as the newly formed **Sacred Heart Schola Cantorum**. Don't miss it!!



We are continuing our 'Zoom' book club meetings. At 6.00pm Sunday, 2 January 2021, we will share our thoughts on the book, *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman.

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

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

AdVentflection

Visit the Cathedral (www.sacredheartmilton.org.au) or Parish (www.newcastlecatholic.org.au) and sign up at the bottom of the homepage to receive a daily 'Advent Vflection' straight to your email Inbox.

Every morning of Advent, Fr Andrew will post a fresh video reflection as part of the journey through Advent towards the celebration of Christmas.

For more information and details about the importance of the survey, go to Liturgy Matters

To complete the survey go to:

surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturg

If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, phone Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 for a hard copy.



The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey is now live



www.mn.catholic.org.au

TODAY'S LITURGY

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Antiphon Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 61:1-2. 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

We pause for silent reflection.

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We pause for silent reflection.

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring
Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

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

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

Communion Acclamation

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38

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

Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Judith Curley, Reginald Knight,
Linda Nisola, Joe Wilks

ANNIVERSARIES: Victor Fernando, Nicola Rossi, Sr
Clare Tobin rsj, Millicent O'Neill,

SICK: Baby Oliver Robens, Beth Wooden, Kate
Newsome.

*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*

REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

Have you thought? A time to Rejoice!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths. © Greg Sunter Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

The Celebration of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) is one of the highlights of the Christian year, and for very good reason.

Our celebrations in 2020, however, will look significantly different to what they have in the past because of the continuing presence of COVID-19 in our community. This presence requires the observing of a number of restrictions in the way we will celebrate Christmas, largely concerning the number of persons who will be able to attend, and the regrettable absence of the singing together of well known carols (at least according to the rules in place when this edition goes to print).

CHRISTMAS EVE 24 DECEMBER

5:00pm Vigil Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
5:00pm Vigil St Joseph's The Junction
5:30pm Vigil St Mary's Star of the Sea Newcastle
5:30pm Vigil St Laurence O'Toole Broadmeadow
6:00pm Vigil Christ the King Mayfield West
7:00pm Vigil Sacred Heart Cathedral
7:00pm Vigil St Joseph's The Junction
7:30pm Vigil St Peter-in-Chains Stockton
10:00pm Vigil Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)

CHRISTMAS DAY

12 Midnight Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
12 Midnight St Joseph's The Junction
7:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
7:30am St Mary's Star of the Sea Newcastle
8:00am Immaculate Heart of Mary Tighes Hill
9:00am St Joseph's The Junction
9:00am St Peter-in-Chains Stockton
9:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
10:30am St Laurence O'Toole Broadmeadow (Italian)
11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton (Polish)
5:30pm Christ the King Mayfield West (Vietnamese)

ST STEPHEN'S DAY 26 DECEMBER

11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)

NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 JANUARY

7:30am St Mary's Star of the Sea Newcastle
9:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
10:15am St Joseph's The Junction
11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton (Polish)
No New Years Day Italian Mass

Mass times for the following Churches will be advised in next weeks Bulletin:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Tighes Hill
St Peter-in-Chains Stockton
St Laurence O'Toole Broadmeadow
Christ the King Mayfield West

Because of the restrictions on the number of persons who can be in our Churches, each of the Christmas Masses (apart from the two Polish language Masses) will need to be 'ticketed', i.e. you will need to register in advance in order to attend.

We regret the need to do this, but believe it is the only way to manage the situation efficiently and with some equity.

Registration will be via the Eventbrite website as this permits both the addition of extra spaces if public health orders change, and will also permit the easier collection of contact details of those attending. For those without internet access, please contact the Parish Office on 4979 1101 and the staff will assist you.

We are giving our regular parishioners first option on registering. The event will not be placed on websites, or our various social media outlets until the beginning of December.

To register for Masses please use the following links:

Sacred Heart Cathedral

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-mass-sacred-heart-cathedral-hamilton-registration-127681140729>

St Joseph's

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-mass-st-josephs-the-junction-registration-128741349843>

St Mary's

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-mass-st-marys-the-hill-registration-128742725959>

For registration for Christ the King Mayfield West, St Peter-in-Chains Stockton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Tighes Hill and St Laurence O'Toole Broadmeadow, please use the normal Sunday Mass registration processes.



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED CHRISTMAS CARDS

are available for purchase. A pack of 12 cards costs \$10. Please place money on the second collection plate.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS are available for purchase. A pack of 10 cards costs \$7.

COVID-19-RELATED INFORMATION

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 2 square metres per person within the building.

In our Region, those limits are:

Sacred Heart Cathedral	220
St Mary's, Newcastle	108
St Joseph's, The Junction	200
Mary Immaculate, Tighes Hill	110
St Laurence O'Toole, Broadmeadow	110
St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton	140
Christ the King, Mayfield West	140

The limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, such as weddings and funerals.

The NSW government has made some announcements about further easing of restrictions from Monday, 7 December.

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 Details 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. If you have the Service NSW app on your phone, you can also use that to sign in at the Cathedral.

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.

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 not required for Sunday 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.

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.

LIVE-STREAMING NOTICE – 9.30AM MASS FROM

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL The 9.30am Mass from Sacred Heart Cathedral is live-streamed (and recorded) each week. The camera is located under the choir loft and faces towards the sanctuary, though it can be directed to various parts of the Cathedral if needed.

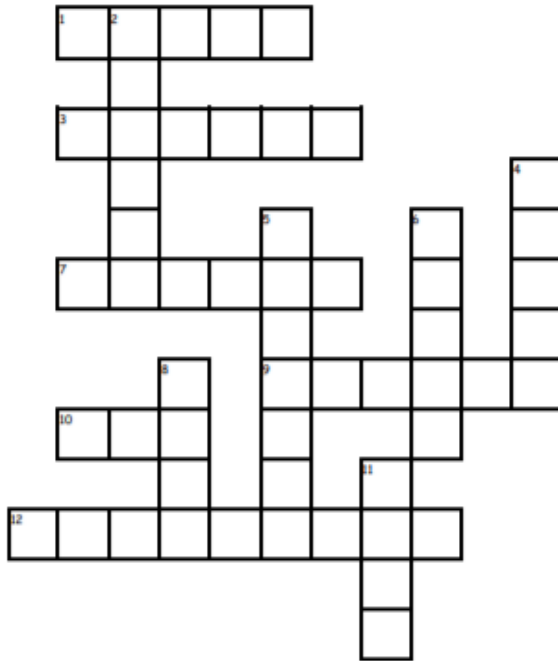
Parishioners should be aware that they may be filmed during the celebration of the 9.30am Mass. This filming will mostly capture their image from behind. We cannot guarantee, however, that their faces will not be featured on the live-stream or recording, particularly the case during the Communion Procession. The live-stream will make use of multiple camera angles to minimise the identification of individuals as much as possible, but this will not eliminate the possibility of being filmed.

Parishioners with concerns about being filmed or recorded should speak with the Cathedral Rector, Father Andrew Doohan, in the first instance.

CROSSWORD

I have been chosen to prepare for the Lord

Is 61:1-2
Lk 1:47 & 49, 53-54, R, Is 61:10b
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:19-28



Across

- 1: to have no war or fighting
3: the opposite of brother
7: selected
9: a sandy place where not much grows
10: the number before two
12: an important religious group at the time of Jesus who strictly obeyed Jewish law

Down

- 2: John was asked if he was the Messiah, E_____, or the Prophet
4: before all others
5: people who lead
6: John used this to baptise people
8: twelve months
11: the Lord sent Isaiah to tell the good ____

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

I have been chosen to prepare for the Lord

Is 61:1-2
Lk 1:47 & 49, 53-54, R, Is 61:10b
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:19-28

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

Try to find these words:

chosen
desert
Elijah
first
leaders
news
one
peace
Pharisees
sister
water
year