



**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, 20TH DECEMBER 2020
FOURTH 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)

Fourth Week of Advent

Monday— 21st December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday— 22nd December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:15am Rosary @ Stockton

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—23rd December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—24th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

5:00pm Vigil @ The Cathedral (*Live Stream*)

5:00pm Vigil @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil @ Newcastle

5:30pm Vigil @ Broadmeadow

6:00pm Vigil @ Mayfield West

7:00pm Vigil @ The Cathedral

7:00pm Vigil @ The Junction

7:30pm Vigil @ Stockton

10:00pm Vigil @ The Cathedral (Polish)

Friday—25th December

The Nativity of the Lord

12 Midnight Mass @ The Cathedral (*Live Stream*)

12 Midnight Mass @ The Junction

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

7:30am Mass @ Newcastle

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (*Live Stream*)

10:30am Mass @ Broadmeadow (Italian)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West (Vietnamese)

Saturday—26th December

Feast of St Stephen

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

10:30am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Broadmeadow

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday— 27th December

The Feast of the Holy Family

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

PARISH NOTICES

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 January 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



FAMILY PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Liturgy Brisbane is providing Christmas resources via their usual Sunday readings format, with a special one for Christmas Day. This will enable families to celebrate a Christmas Liturgy of the Word together at home. The *Praying with Children* resource will also be prepared for Christmas Day. These are available from Liturgy Brisbane by subscription at <https://shop.liturgybrisbane.net.au/collections/electronic-resources-for-sundays>.

During COVID-19, Liturgy Brisbane has provided a range of resources free-of-charge. We were notified

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

READING ROSTER: with the easing of COVID-19 Restrictions we would like to re-commence a Reading Roster for St Mary's and St Joseph's Churches. Should you be interested in participating please contact Father Peter Street on 4979 1101.

some time ago that to continue receiving these resources, communities would need to take out a subscription. We are grateful to Liturgy Brisbane for their generosity through this challenging year and appreciate their need to cover their costs.

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



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 from **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!!**

STOCKTON NOTICES

Sanctuary Light

Sincere thanks to Kevin Mitchell for installing our new sanctuary light.

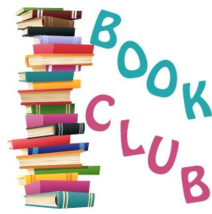
Christmas Clean

The response to our last clean was amazing. Looking forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 23rd Dec. at 9.00am for our Christmas Clean of the church. Any cleaning apparatus you wish to bring along would be greatly appreciated.

St Vincent de Paul

What a tremendously generous response both from the parish and our school to our Advent appeal for goods to make up our Christmas Hampers for the less privileged in our area. Last weekend we were able to put together 23 hampers which brought tremendous response of tears, joy and thanks from our recipients. Sincere thanks to all who enabled this to happen.

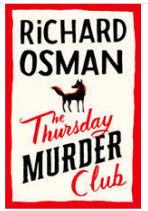
Sincere thanks to the donors to our Christmas Appeal



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



A C N

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: Thank you to all the individuals, families and parishes who helped us support suffering and persecuted Catholic communities, particularly in this year of the coronavirus pandemic.

We pray that the joy and peace of the Christmas season will refresh all our hearts and prepare us to live our faith into the New Year.

www.aidtochurch.org.



Catholic Diocese
OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Synod 2021

A CALL FOR DELEGATES DIOCESAN SYNOD : SESSIONS 2 & 3

On 8th August 2019 Bishop Bill convoked the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Synod – Building the Kingdom of God Together. Session One – Celebration – was held on 21st November 2019. Session Two – Discernment – will be held on the 22nd May 2021 and Session Three – Implementation – on 20th November 2021.

Parishes are being asked to nominate delegates to receive an invitation from Bishop Bill to attend Sessions Two and Three. If you are interested in being a participant in, or contributing to the Synod, please contact the Parish Office on 4979 1101.

For further information on the role of a Delegate please go to <https://domnsynod.com.au/get-involved/delegates/>

TODAY'S LITURGY

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord

We pause for silent reflection.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

We pause for silent reflection.

Gospel Acclamation *(Please stand)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

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

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

Communion Acclamation

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Feast of the Holy Family

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk 2:22-40

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



Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Joseph Timbs, Rocco Di Rienzo

ANNIVERSARIES: Kelvin O'Neill, Stephen Howard, James (Jim) Bridges, Mary & George Bridges; George, Ursula, Maxie & Pat Bridges, Mary Lou Alexander, Jack Bleakley

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

AdVent reflection

Visit the Cathedral (www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au) or Parish (www.newcastlecatholic.org.au) and sign up at the bottom of the homepage to receive a daily 'Advent Vreflection' 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: survey.monkey.com/mn-liturg

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

What liturgical growth needs fostering?
What suggestions do you have for liturgical responses in future events?
What were the liturgical challenges and opportunities you experienced during COVID-19?
What liturgical insights and questions do you have as a result of your experiences?
What did you find helpful/unhelpful?
What could we let go of?

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

www.mn.catholic.org.au

REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'?

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God's plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God's desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary's 'Yes' is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place!

Scriptural context

Throughout the gospel of Luke, great importance is placed on the people in society who were regarded as the 'lesser ones'. The mission of Jesus, as described in Luke's gospel, is directed towards those who were unimportant in the eyes of society. In first century society, women were regarded as much less in status than men. So it is significant that the first revelation of Jesus is made to a woman, Mary. The angel Gabriel announces that Mary has won God's favour. For a woman to win God's favour would have been unimaginable to many Jews at the time, yet, through this woman God was revealed in human form.

© Greg Sunter

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

9:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)

NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 JANUARY

7:30am St Mary's Star of the Sea Newcastle
8:00am St Peter-in-Chains Stockton
9:00am Christ the King Mayfield West
9:15am Immaculate Heart of Mary Tighes Hill
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

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 gave our regular parishioners first option on register. The event was not 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.



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 by 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.

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

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.

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.

Coronavirus Prayer

Lord Jesus, you heal the sick.
We pray that the coronavirus that has affected so many in our world can be contained, controlled, and cured.

We lift up to your mercy all those affected, all those working hard to study and cure this illness, and all health care professionals and emergency management teams that are working day and night to keep us safe.

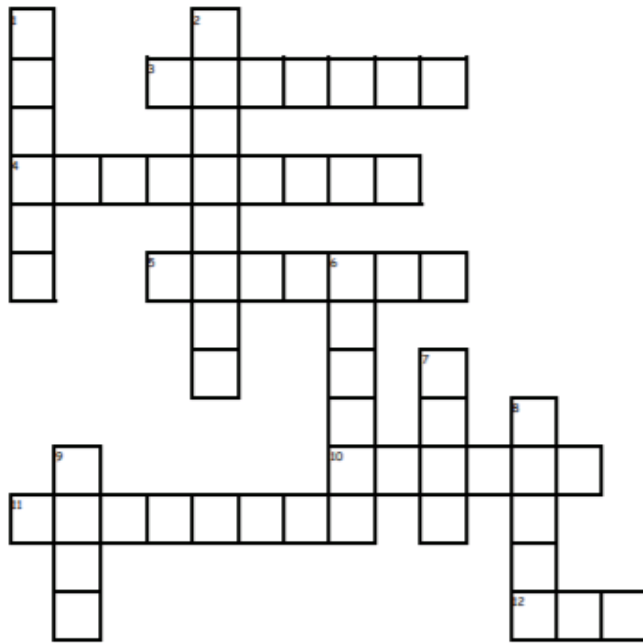
Help us, Lord, to trust in your merciful care.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.
Amen.

CROSSWORD

His name will be Jesus

Lk 1:26-38



Across

- 3: the angel sent by God to deliver a message
- 4: Mary's cousin who was also going to have a son
- 5: Mary said, 'I am the Lord's _____! Let it happen as you have said.'
- 10: the angel told Mary that Jesus would forever rule the people of which land?
- 11: unable to understand, mixed up
- 12: the opposite of daughter

Down

- 1: Mary was engaged to this man
- 2: the town where Mary lived
- 6: scared, frightened
- 7: the angel had a message for this person
- 8: Mary was told to give her child this name
- 9: the angel said, 'your child will be called the _____ Son of God'

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

Jesus Christ the Good News

Rom 16:25-27
Ps 47:1-2, 7-8, R, v.8
Lk 1:26-38



Try to find these words:

- afraid
- Gabriel
- Joseph
- Mary
- message
- Nazareth
- praise
- prophets
- secret
- son
- strong
- write