



City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Inner Newcastle Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 18TH APRIL 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr Peter Street
Fr Peter Thoai
Fr Matthew Muller
Fr John Vo
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office
Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
(02) 4979 1116

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Parish Bulletin: Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.



YOU
ARE
WITNESSES
OF THESE
THINGS

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.

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

3rd Week of Easter, Year B

Monday—19th April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—20th April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—21st April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—22nd April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—23rd April

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—24th April

9.20am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help @ The Cathedral (followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—25th April

4th Sunday of Easter

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9am 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/

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

GHOSTS, MEALS AND HUMANITY

Reflection by Michael Tate

When Jesus appeared to them, the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost, a sort of projection of a human image on the screen of the world but with no human depth and vitality. In fact, ghosts seem to drain life and warmth from those they encounter.

The disciples became convinced that they were in the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ when he assumed a characteristic way of acting – sharing a companionable meal (of fish).

His bodily presence of *that* sort is now withdrawn from us. But we are now encountered by him in the Mass which has many dimensions, one of which is that of a sacred meal. When we share in the sacramental signs of his Real Presence in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion, he brings us the life and warmth of the Risen Son.

In fact, he shares his very life with us, and because his life is gloriously fully human, we become less ghost-like as he heals those parts of our personality which drain goodness and vitality from the world. We could take a moment to pray to take greater opportunities to share in the Real Presence of Our Risen Lord under the appearance of bread and wine. This will move us from the illusion of being alive to that vitality which is nourished by his glorified humanity.

BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

Father Peter Street's Bible Study Group due to begin on Thursday, 8 April has been postponed due to a delay getting the materials.

It is anticipated that this study will be offered as soon as the materials become available.

IS THERE ANYTHING TO EAT?

The disciples are 'terrified' when they see Jesus after his resurrection; but Jesus puts them at their ease by sharing a meal. It is only then that the disciples are ready to listen and to open their minds to the wisdom that Jesus has to offer.



SOCIAL JUSTICE ART WORKSHOP EXHIBITION

The Social Justice 2020-2021 Statement, *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today*, provides the opportunity to better understand mental illness and how as social beings we need the bonds of family, friends and the broader community to celebrate the joys and hopes of life.

Artists are invited to create a work based on the themes found in the Social Justice Statement. Works can be 2 or 3 dimensional no larger than 1 x 1 metres. Name, title of work, school, parish and phone number clearly labelled on the back. This information plus a 150 word (maximum) artist statement must accompany the work and be emailed through to rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au before June 19.

Please join us for a day of prayer, reflection and art making. \$10 cost covers all art materials used on the day. Participants will need to bring their own lunch on the day. Artworks will become part of the Social Justice art exhibition/competition held on July 17 at the Veritas Centre Mayfield.

Dates:

Wednesday April 28, 9.30am-2.30pm: St Columban's Hall, Church St, Mayfield

Thursday April 29, 9.30am-2.30pm: Catholic Parish Office, Unit 5/16 Cambridge St, Singleton

Friday April 30, 9.30am-2.30pm: Community Centre St Joseph's Parish Kilaben Bay, 140 Wangi Rd, Toronto

Monday May 3, 9.30am-2.30pm: Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 33 Lake St, Forster

To register to go: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/social-justice-art-workshop-tickets-145391039513>

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

REFLECTION DAY WITH BISHOP BILL

Bishop Bill is offering reflection days around the Diocese during April and May. The closest to our parish is:

Tuesday May 4: Cathedral House, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. Reflection @ 2:30-4pm

The day is offered in other locations around the Diocese. If you'd like more information about the other times and places, please contact the Bishop's Office.

THE BREAKFAST CONVERSATION

BYO breakfast!!

(formerly the Men's Breakfast Group)

Our April **COVID-safe** gathering will be held at the Newcastle Mens Shed shopfront:

What? Wayne Grant – Secretary of The Newcastle Mens Shed, will tell us about recent changes and expansion plans. We will meet in their workshop / shop front at Hamilton.

When? Monday 19th April Commencing at: 7.15am We continue to be Covid Safe, so please **BYO coffee and eats.**

Where? 99 Beaumont St. Hamilton alongside Westpac Bank.

Why? Fellowship and information

Who? All welcome

Enquires? Neil Jones 0410 572579

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 2nd May @6pm: Bookclub meets to discuss *Miss Iceland* by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:

Living Waters,
34 Kenrick St., The Junction:

Wednesday, 7.30 am

Friday, 11.00 am

Monday, 6.30 pm

CONTACT: anne-cuskelly@hotmail.com or

0407 436 808



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

Sometimes the lectionary cuts a gospel story off too soon. Today we hear from the last chapter of Luke's Gospel where there are four accounts of how the disciples came to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. In the first two stories Mary Magdalene and then Peter come to see that Jesus has been raised from the dead because they found his tomb empty. The third story is set on the Road to Emmaus. Today's gospel is where Jesus appears to the apostles and disciples en masse, but it finishes at verse 48. In the next few verses Jesus tells the disciples that he is sending them out to be his witnesses in the world, and then he ascends to the Father.

The Church finishes the passage early because it does not want to pre-empt the feast of the Ascension, but by doing so it does the story an injustice. We are used to hearing how the Road to Emmaus mirrors what we do here at Mass each Sunday. But if we include Luke chapter 24, verses 49 to 50, then we can see that today's Gospel does the same thing. The verbs tell the story. In today's Gospel Jesus is present to the disciples; he gives himself to them to be seen and held; he eats with them; teaches them about the scriptures; and he commissions them to go out.

As a result of that first Easter we gather here each Sunday to remember and make Easter present again. This is the reason, for example, we talk about the 40 days of Lent when in fact there are 45 days from Ash Wednesday to the Easter Vigil. In or outside the Easter season Sundays are always days of the Resurrection. And just like the first Easter Sunday we believe that Christ continues to invite us here; to teach us about how to understand the scriptures and live them out in our daily lives; is present to us, to have and to hold, in his Word, this community, the presider and in a special way in the Eucharistic meal; and that he sends us out to proclaim his saving love with heroic joy.

To enable us to do all this we receive the same gift Jesus gave the first disciples as well, the gift of peace. But sometimes we have to get creative about how we achieve it, like the old man who purchased a retirement home near a high school. He spent the first few weeks in peace and contentment. Then a new school year began. The very next afternoon three young men came down his street beating merrily on every rubbish bin they encountered. The crashing percussion continued day after day, until finally the old man decided to take some action. The next afternoon, he walked out to meet the young percussionists. He called out, 'You kids are a lot of fun. Will you do me a

favour? I'll give you each a dollar if you'll promise to come around every day and do your thing.' The kids were elated and continued to do a bang-up job on the rubbish bins. A few days later, the retiree approached them again, 'Look' he said. 'I haven't received my pension cheque this month, so I'm not going to be able to give you more than 25 cents. Will that be okay?' '25 cents?' the drum leader exclaimed. 'If you think we're going to waste our time beating these bins for 25 cents, you're nuts! No way, mister. We quit!' And the old man enjoyed peace and quiet for the rest of his days.

So as Christ sends us forth today, may we be wise about how we can create some happiness and peace around us as well.

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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.

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Tom Towers, Pat Corrigan, His Eminence Idris Edward Cassidy, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, John McKenzie

ANNIVERSARIES: Maurice Kerr, Edna Margaret O'Beirne, John Harvey, Lyndal Barnes Tynan, Eric Schmitzer, Charles Hart, Barry Dwyer.

SICK: Carlo Rossi, Graham Chegwidan

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Val Donnelly, Sr Marjorie McLachlan

Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Sunday 25th April 2021

4th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Acts 4:8-12

1 John 3:1-2

John 10:11-18

AROUND THE CHURCHES:

ST LAURENCE O'TOOLE, BROADMEADOW:

The bricklayers and tuck pointers who are fixing the historic brick damage at the rear of the church will be finished by the end of this weekend.

The asbestos clearance certificate has come through. It is now asbestos-safe to re-enter the church, however, entry is not advised.

The builders have found enough damage that they are engaging a structural engineer to assess the safety of the gallery, the works on the stairs that needs to be done won't begin until after the engineer has sent his report.

The intermittently working lighting is due to the deterioration of the entire wiring system. We are currently having an electrical contractor quote on this job.

The church will definitely not be in any state to be opened for masses this weekend. We will keep you informed of when it will be open.

The Italian community continue to celebrate Mass at St Joseph's, The Junction on Sundays at 11am.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, TIGHES HILL:

Investigations into the leaking roof at Tighes Hill are under way and we will keep you updated.

ST PETER IN CHAINS, STOCKTON:

Our builder, David Kirkman, advises that the scaffolding inside the building will be done with by the end of this week. There is plenty of other work outside to be completed including sewer works, eaves and barges, brickwork, painting, cleaning and more.

ST JOSEPH'S, THE JUNCTION

All Organs has loaned St Joseph's Church a digital pipe organ until after Anzac Day. The Parish extends our thanks to Jim Clinch and *All Organs* for this generous loan.

CANCELLATION OF MASSES

The parish clergy will be joining the other clergy and parish leaders of the Diocese at a series of in-service days from Monday 26 April to Friday 30 April. Because of this, the decision has been taken to cancel the usual Masses in the churches of the Region for that week. We apologise for any inconvenience, and ask for your prayers as the clergy and parish leaders come together for professional learning.

THE PARISH LUNCHEON

The Parish luncheon will be held on Monday 19th April at 12.30pm in the Victor Peters Suite. Please join friends for this lovely opportunity to be together socially. For more information, please contact Maureen - 0412 673151 .

ANZAC DAY



RSL
NSW

The Merewether-Hamilton-Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch will not be conducting any of its Anzac Day Services this year. They usually

conduct services at Merewether Memorial Gates, Gregson Park Hamilton and the WWI Memorial Adamstown.

On meeting with the NSW Police Waratah Local Area Command, Newcastle City Council Events Program Manager and various communications from NSW Government, Department of Health, it was strongly recommended that they cancel Services again this year. Even though COVID restrictions are at the moment, less than they were, a decision had to be made early due to the large number of plans and strategic requirements necessary to be worked through.

The Sub-Branch is disappointed that they cannot hold this very significant service of Remembrance for our community. We hope that 2022 brings back our community Anzac Day Services and wellness to our country and the world.

The RSL Sub-Branch sends a message of thanks for all who support Ex-service and Serving men and women.

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother, grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

As part of the Year of St Joseph, a plenary indulgence is being granted according to the usual conditions of confession, communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions to those who recite the Litany of St Joseph for the persecuted Church and for Christians suffering all forms of persecution.

A LAUGH...

MARRIAGE AND COFFEE

Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee.

Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: "It's right here—HEBREWS."

BOAZ AND RUTH

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
Answer: He was Ruthless.

THE KINDERGARTENER

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what she was drawing.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one actually knows what God looks like."

The little girl continued drawing and said: "well, they certainly will in a minute!"



Have you thought? Is 'Literal' wrong?

Is there really something intrinsically wrong about a literal interpretation of scripture? Not at all! It is indeed an essential tool of any scriptural interpretation. It is of course important that we first and foremost understand the text as it is written – we have to have a literal understanding of the words that are used and what they mean. The problem arises when this is as far as we go. If we stop at this stage then we are shutting ourselves off from the richness of the scriptures. If we fail to dig below the surface then we are denying ourselves the opportunity of scrutinising our lives in the light of the scripture.

WHAT IS LECTIO DIVINA?



Through the practice of Lectio Divina, as individuals and as community, we leave space for God's Word to transform us so that we may begin to look upon our world as it were with the eyes of God and to love what we see with

the heart of God.

In the 12th century, a Carthusian monk called Guigo, described the stages which he saw as essential to the practice of Lectio Divina. There are various ways of practising Lectio Divina either individually or in groups but Guigo's description remains fundamental.

He said that the first stage is **lectio** (reading) where we read the Word of God, slowly and reflectively so that it sinks into us. Any passage of Scripture can be used for this way of prayer but the passage should not be too long.

The second stage is **meditatio** (reflection) where we think about the text we have chosen and ruminate upon it so that we take from it what God wants to give us.

The third stage is **oratio** (response) where we leave our thinking aside and simply let our hearts speak to God. This response is inspired by our reflection on the Word of God.

The final stage of Lectio Divina is **contemplatio** (rest) where we let go not only of our own ideas, plans and meditations but also of our holy words and thoughts. We simply rest in the Word of God. We listen at the deepest level of our being to God who speaks within us with a still small voice. As we listen, we are gradually transformed from within. Obviously this transformation will have a profound effect on the way we actually live and the way we live is the test of the authenticity of our prayer. We must take what we read in the Word of God into our daily lives.

These stages of Lectio Divina are not fixed rules of procedure but simply guidelines as to how the prayer normally develops. Its natural movement is towards greater simplicity, with less and less talking and more listening. Gradually the words of Scripture begin to dissolve and the Word is revealed before the eyes of our heart. How much time should be given to each stage depends very much on whether it is used individually or in a group. If Lectio Divina is used for group prayer, obviously more structure is needed than for individual use. In group prayer, much will depend on the type of group. Lectio Divina may involve discussing the implications of the Word of God for

daily life but it cannot be reduced to this. The movement of the prayer is towards silence. If the group is comfortable with silence, more time could be spent resting in the Word.

The practice of *Lectio Divina* as a way of praying the Scriptures has been a fruitful source of growing in relationship with Christ for many centuries and in our own day is being rediscovered by many individuals and groups. The Word of God is alive and active and will transform each of us if we open ourselves to receive what God wants to give us.

LECTIO DIVINA VIA ZOOM

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. During the Easter Season, we will employ the practice of *Lectio Divina* to prayerfully reflect on the Gospel of the coming Sunday.

"*Lectio Divina*", a Latin term, means "divine reading" and describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us. We meet via Zoom each Wednesday of the month from 7pm.

To participate, please email the office



GOSPEL FOCUS

PEACE BE WITH YOU

When Jesus appears in the midst of the disciples, his first words to them are, 'Peace be with you!' His appearance among them obviously agitated the disciples who were already hiding, in fear of their lives and devastated by the loss of their leader days earlier. Jesus' calming and reassuring words, 'Peace be with you!' recognise the reality of what state the disciples are in. The words demonstrate that Jesus is meeting the disciples 'where they are' – he recognises their distress and fear and responds with words that accept what they're feeling but reassure them of his love and care. They are words that Jesus speaks to us too!

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	221
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.). The contact details for each and every individual—including children and infants—must be collected.

The contact details that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival.

Attendees are able to use the Service NSW QR Code to provide their details—just like many other places—using the Service NSW app on your phone, or via a QR Code reader. A Contact Details Form will be provided at the door to permit the collection of these details.

General Requirements

The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, 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

There is no need to register in advance to attend regular 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.

Christ rose from the dead

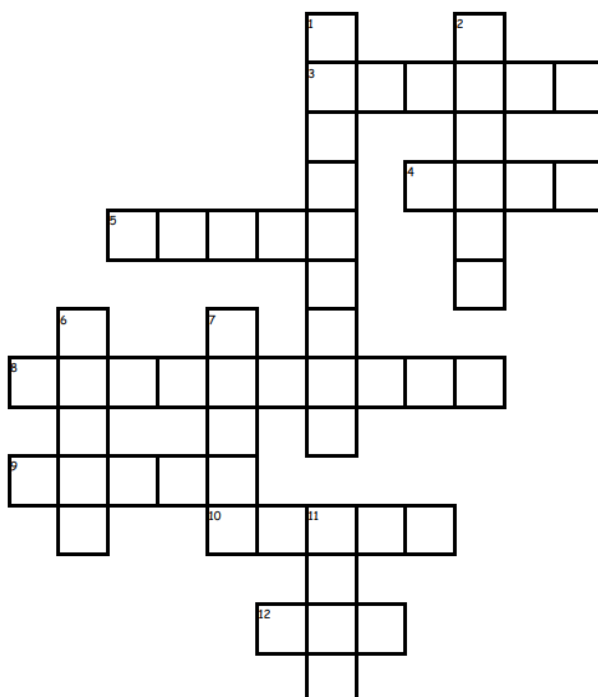
C X E Z T A W K O J N B O E C
 R O A D C Z C K K M V T H P B
 T W L F J J F K Q G H O S T R
 I Z M B O R O Q A J T J M N E
 E S V X N J E R U S A L E M A
 M T H R E E P S Q N E C B J D
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 K W F R I G H T E N E D K W E
 W X N E C Y R S R P I R W L F
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

Try to find these words:

bread
 eat
 Emmaus
 fish
 frightened
 ghost
 hands
 Jerusalem
 Moses
 nation
 road
 three

CROSSWORD

Christ rose from the dead



Across

- 3: the disciples saw Jesus on the road leading to this place
 4: the disciples gave Jesus some baked _____ to eat
 5: everything that happened to Jesus was written in scriptures such as the Law of _____
 8: when Jesus appeared the disciples felt f_____ until they realised who he was
 9: Jesus showed the disciples his _____ and feet
 10: Jesus explained the Scriptures, which said he would rise from death after this many days
 12: you do this when you are hungry

Down

- 1: Jesus told the disciples to start telling people the news in this place
 2: Jesus told the disciples that all people of every _____ should be told what had happened
 6: the disciples knew who Jesus was when they saw him break the _____
 7: when Jesus appeared the disciples thought they were seeing a _____
 11: Jesus appeared to the disciples on the _____ to Emmaus