



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 2ND MAY 2021

FIFTH 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.

I am the vine,
you are the branches.
If you remain in me
and I in you,
you will bear much fruit



apart from me you
can do nothing.

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)

5th Week of Easter, Year B

Monday—3rd May

Feast of Sts Philip and James

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—4th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—5th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—6th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—7th May

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield (if there is no Mass at St Columban school)

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—8th May

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

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—9th May

6th 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

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. From Monday 17th to Sunday 23rd May 2021, Australia will celebrate the significant contribution of almost six million volunteers across our nation. This year's National Volunteer Week theme is Recognise, Reconnect and Reimagine. The Diocese and its agencies have more than 6000 volunteers that do amazing work and make a significant contribution every day. This year we will host a volunteer week event on Thursday 20th May at Event Cinemas Kotara beginning at 5:30pm to celebrate volunteers and the work they do. The movie is *June Again* and catering is provided. RSVP volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au or call 02 49791348

CARITAS AUSTRALIA TIMOR-LESTE AND INDONESIAN FLOODS EMERGENCY APPEAL

On 4 April 2021, Tropical Cyclone Seroja struck Timor-Leste and eastern parts of Indonesia, triggering torrential rain and flash flooding. The floods swept away homes and destroyed roads, with parts of the Timor-Leste capital, Dili, now under water.

At least 157 people in Timor-Leste and Indonesia have already lost their lives. The death toll is expected to rise, with information still filtering through from the more remote regions of Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste is also facing a COVID-19 crisis, with Dili under lockdown following a rise in locally acquired cases. Indonesia has also struggled to contain the spread of COVID-19, with over 1.5 million confirmed cases – the highest in South East Asia. The flood will heighten the risk of community transmission, with thousands of displaced residents forced to seek shelter together in close quarters inside evacuation centres.

Approximately 13,000 people have been affected by the floods and landslides, including more than 10,000 in Timor-Leste.

Caritas Australia are calling for donations so they can provide urgent, emergency support to communities in Timor-Leste and Indonesia devastated by the floods.

Your donation means our partners on the ground can help provide clean water, food, hygiene kits and shelter to those who need it most.

For more information on how you can help, visit:
<https://www.caritas.org.au/timor-leste-and-indonesian-floods-emergency-appeal/>

WORDS OF WISDOM

"There's a fine line between a long, drawn-out sermon and a hostage situation."

PLANNED GIVING

We are auditing our planned giving envelopes for the Newcastle parish this year. If you are a current planned giver and use envelopes please contact the CRCC office newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au or PO Box 6, The Junction, 2291 or #49791101 and confirm your wish to continue with planned giving into the new financial year. Please provide us with: Name, Address, Email and phone number, and which church you attend. Please note that Mayfield and Stockton parishes will not be audited this financial year, but perhaps next.

HAMILTON SOUTH COMMUNITY KITCHEN

CatholicCare Food Programs is excited to announce that the new Hamilton South Community Kitchen will launch in late May at the Hamilton South Community Centre.

Each Wednesday between 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CatholicCare will offer a free meal to the Hamilton South community. In preparation for the launch, we are seeking volunteers who are available between 10:00 am – 1:30 pm to assist with the operation. There are many different roles available whether it is cooking, serving, collecting donations, setting up or having a chat with our Friends. To express your interest contact Baden Ellis, Food Programs Coordinator by email volunteers@catholiccare.org.au or call our office on 4979 1339.

CAN YOU HELP?

A young family from Congo needs assistance with driving lessons, either personally or financially by accompanying the mum to achieve her 150 hrs. Parishioners at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the family have 2 school aged children & a one year old infant. If you can help, please contact Mr Camille Bushoshi (0470 441 153). Camille would be grateful for any leads to employment. He has taught French and Philosophy in the past.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:

Living Waters,
34 Kenrick St., The Junction:

Wednesday, 7.30 am

Friday, 11.00 am

Monday, 6.30 pm

CONTACT: annecuskelly@hotmail.com or

0407 436 808

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 and

6.00pm to 8.00pm

Mass from 5.00pm to 5.30pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home.

God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/96144217758>

Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

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 from 7pm.

To participate, please email the office.

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE

As restrictions have been eased further in NSW, those interested are able to attend the in-person retreats at the Divine Retreat Centre. The May schedule includes:
May 7: Divine Mercy Retreat (6-8:30pm)
May 14-16: Couples Growth Retreat (live-in)
May 30: One Day Pilgrimage (Last Sunday Retreat)

The Divine Retreat Centre is located in Somersby. Bookings are required. See the website for more information: www.divineretreatcentre.org.au

REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard SJ

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion.

This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us.

It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'

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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48
1 John 4: 7-10
John 15: 9-17

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Maria Cosentino

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret & John Tierney, Mary & Edward Drane, Nunziata Murri, Tony Tamplin jnr

SICK: Carlo Rossi, Graham Chegvidden, Margaret Bannerman. Bernard and Gabriel Wood, Rebecca Penhall, Mark Murray, Bryan Hornets

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.

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

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

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.

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

*He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and
spoke to him on his journey.*

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your
people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the
Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the
earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.
(R.)

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve
him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to
come,

declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

'These things the Lord has done.' (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24

*His commandments are these: that we believe and
that we love one another.*

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Homily

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.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the
Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit
in plenty, alleluia.

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SYNOD UPDATE: NOW SEEKING 'INTERESTED PEOPLE'

Expression of interest is now open for "Interested People" to attend the second session of Synod. Interested People may be those who wish to be invited because of their interest in the Catholic Church and the work of the synod and/or who are unable to be Synod Members or Synod Participants.

An Interested Person may be present at the Synod Session Two on 22nd May. They will have neither voice nor voting rights at the Synod.

The Synod will be held as a Multi-Modal Model. There will be six locations:

- Central Hub – Victor Peters Suite and Diocesan Rooms
- Hub 1 – San Clemente High School, Mayfield
- Hub 2 – St Pauls High School, Booragul
- Hub 3 – All Saints College/St Mary's, Maitland
- Hub 4 – St Joseph's High School, Aberdeen
- Hub 5 – St Clare's High School, Taree

If you are interested in attending Synod Session Two on 22nd May please complete an Expression of Interest Form www.domnsynod.com.au/get-involved/interested-people to be allocated to a Synod Hub.

Please note: Synod Members, Synod Participants, or Synod delegates do not have to complete this form.

Scriptural Context

In context

The imagery that Jesus used in his parables and in extended metaphors such as the one used in this week's gospel sometimes seems a little foreign to a 21st Century audience. However, the world in which Jesus lived and taught was dominated by small scale farmers and producers in an agrarian economy. His use of images such as 'shepherd', 'vine', 'tenants', 'farmers' and 'wineskins' would all have been immediately recognisable to his audience. They would also have appreciated much more than we do the subtlety of Jesus' use of such images when he twists them in an unexpected way.

CATHEDRAL 'TAP & GO' DONATION POINT

Last year we introduced a 'tap and go' point at the Cathedral - a cashless option for donations to the second collection at a pre-configured amount of \$5. Over time it's been apparent that individuals are contributing more than that amount via multiple 'taps', so we are increasing the set donation amount to \$10. We trust this is acceptable and much appreciate your continuing support.

The donation point is co-located with the cash collection box near the side transept. It 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 \$10, 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.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER MAY 1

Joseph, by the work of your hands
and the sweat of your brow,
you supported Jesus and Mary,
and had the Son of God as your fellow worker.

Teach me to work as you did,
with patience and perseverance, for God and
for those whom God has given me to support.

Teach me to see in my fellow workers
the Christ who desires to be in them,
that I may always be charitable and forbearing
towards all.

Grant me to look upon work
with the eyes of faith,
so that I shall recognize in it
my share in God's own creative activity
and in Christ's work of our redemption,
and so take pride in it.

When it is pleasant and productive,
remind me to give thanks to God for it.
And when it is burdensome,
teach me to offer it to God,
in reparation for my sins
and the sins of the world.

(Note: This prayer was taken from the booklet "Devotions to Saint Joseph" by Brian Moore, S.J., printed and published by the Society of St. Paul.)

AROUND THE CHURCHES:

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

The external flood lights are under repair.

ST LAURENCE O'TOOLE, BROADMEADOW:

As the building and electrical works are not yet completed., the Church remains closed.

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

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, TIGHES HILL:

We are awaiting quotes for guttering and flashing and window repairs to prevent any further leaking.

ST PETER IN CHAINS, STOCKTON:

Drainage works required have proven more extensive than first expected. There are 23 window panes requiring repair, due in most part to vandalism. We are currently discussing the parking options with council.

ST MARY'S STAR OF THE SEA

The St Mary's restoration project is at due diligence stage. The vandalism of the statue of the virgin has been reported.

MAYFIELD WEST

The carpets have been dry cleaned. We are currently waiting on quotes for the guttering repairs. Weekend Mass time will likely change from next week.

A CHUCKLE...

A Sheepish Recovery

A devout old shepherd lost his favorite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – THE 'TRUE' VINE

The image of the vine has its origins in Psalm 80 where the nation of Israel is likened to a vine: 'You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.' (Ps 80:8-9) However, the people of Israel have forgotten who they are and who it was that planted them in their country – it is like the rootstock of a grafted plant has taken over and gone wild. Jesus' presence as the 'true vine' reminds them of what they are called to be.

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 that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival. These details must be recorded for each attendee.

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.

Show love for others by truly helping them

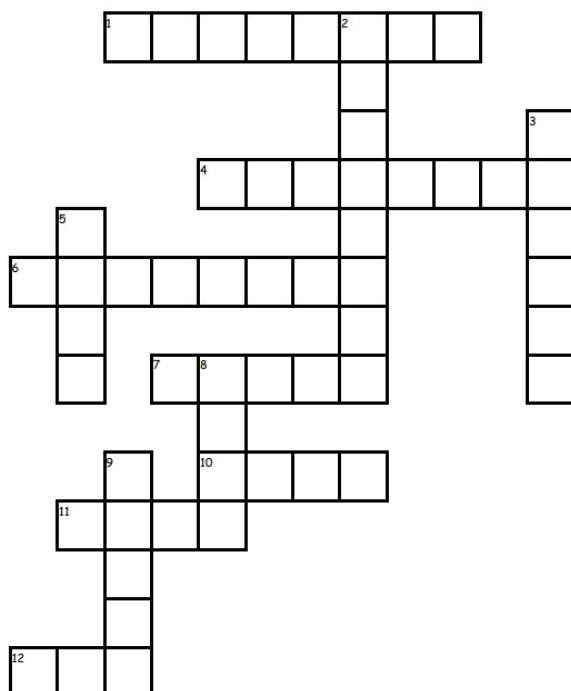
L O V E S A U L O F H B V
H A W Q E M P X H B K K D
H Z E K J I E T R U E X B
S G P W D H V M P J G V U
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S K N Z K D A P A F V F F
D V I N E L U J E V B R O
F K C H I L D R E N N U L
G X C G A R D E N E R I L
J C U T F A N A X A P T O
I U C J U R M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

Try to find these words:

children
clean
cut
Damascus
follower
fruit
gardener
love
prayer
Saul
true
vine

CROSSWORD

Show love for others by truly helping them



Across

- 1: Saul saw the Lord, who spoke to him on the road to this place
- 4: some people were afraid of Saul because they thought he was not a true _____
- 6: someone who looks after gardens
- 7: if something is not dirty it is _____
- 10: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I am the _____ and you are the branches'
- 11: the opposite of false
- 12: you do this with scissors

Down

- 2: young people
- 3: saying a _____ is a good way to speak to God
- 5: this man saw Jesus on the road to Damascus and became one of his followers
- 8: God said that you show _____ for others by truly helping them
- 9: apples and bananas are both types of _____