



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 9TH MAY 2021

SIXTH 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

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
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E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
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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.

love

one another
as I have
loved you

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)

6th Week of Easter, Year B

Monday—10th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—11th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—12th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction—CANCELLED

Thursday—13th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Junction—CANCELLED

Friday—14th May

Feast of St Matthias

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—15th May

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

5:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sunday—16th May

Ascension

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

****NO MASS in ST JOSEPHS****
on Wed 12/5 & Thurs 13/5

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

FINDING GOD IN AUSTRALIA | RETREAT

Presented by Father John Hill, this retreat will be held at St Clement's from Friday 6 to Saturday 7 August. Bushfires, drought, the effects of Covid-19, church scandals - there are so many challenges to our faith in today's Australia. This retreat offers you the chance to come to a place of quiet, to take stock of your own life, to reflect about life here in Australia and to renew the foundations of faith for the future. In the retreat we will use the beauty and quiet of St Clement's to help us experience the presence of God, to pray and celebrate together and see how God is at work in our land and our lives.

Ensuite Room \$350, shared facilities \$300.

Please contact St Clement's to register: info@stclement.com.au or phone 02 6380 5222
Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.

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.

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

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.

SYNOD HELP URGENTLY NEEDED!

Volunteers are urgently needed to help with the Synod on Saturday 22nd May. Session Two of the Synod will take place in six multimodal hubs across our diocese:

- Hub Central – Victor Peters Suite/Diocesan Rooms, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West
- Hub 1 – San Clemente High School, 78 Havelock St, Mayfield
- Hub 2 – St Paul's College, Primrose St, Booragul
- Hub 3 – All Saints' College – St Mary's, 16 Grant St, Maitland
- Hub 4 – St Joseph's High, Segenhoe St, Aberdeen
- Hub 5 – St Clare's High, Davis St, Taree

We need volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Hub Registration Arrangers (3x6 =18)**
- Hub Warden (1x6=6)**
- Hub School Coordinator (1x6=6)**
- Synod Coordinator/Timekeeper (1x6=6)**
- Hub Counter (2x6=2)**
- Hub Recorder (2x1=2)**
- WHS Marshal (1x6= 6)**
- Hub First Aid (1x6=6)**
- Hub Zoom Operator (1x6=6)**
- Hub Tech Equipment Operator (1x6=6)**
- Hub Communications Personnel (1x6=6)**
- Food Stations (3X6=18)**
- Liturgies**

If you would like to volunteer please contact Nichola McCarthy Nichola.mccarthy@mn.catholic.org.au or 0417 300 761 by Wednesday 12 May. Nichola is helping to allocate the many tasks across our hubs. Thank you for your assistance with this urgent request.

THE PARISH LUNCHEON

The Parish luncheon will be held on Monday 17th May 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 .

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.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 6th June @ 6pm: Bookclub meets to discuss Miss Benson's *Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

LORD MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor Nuatali Nelmes requests the company of you and your guests to attend the Annual Lord Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. This event will be held in The Arena Room, NEX Newcastle on Friday, 4 June 2021.

Early Bird tickets are \$39.99 (ends 10 May).

RSVP: 2 June 2021. Tickets available:

<https://ti.to/kingdomworks/2021-annual-lord-mayor-s-prayer-breakfast>

REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard SJ

The Italian film, *Life is Beautiful* vividly portrays the truth of today's Gospel. It shows a father convincing his five-year-old son that the concentration camp is an elaborate game that the Nazis had invented to test the Italians. Some members of the Jewish community criticised this film because they claimed it made light of the holocaust. Writer and director, Roberto Benigni, however, argued that the heart of the film lies in the fact that most parents will do anything to spare their children the reality of evil. Most parents who have seen and wept through the film know exactly what he's talking about.

And if parents could take such risks and go to such lengths for their children, how much more has God done for us in Christ Jesus. We are the only world religion to believe that our God took our form and died out of love for us so that we might understand the love God has for us, and the love we are called to have for each other.

It isn't, however, just any old love Christ calls us to practise. It's not about a fleeting feeling or having a warm fuzzy inside. Jesus tells us today that the character of Christian love is the degree to which it's sacrificial. This is a challenging way of working out who we really love, isn't it? The people we love are those for whom we are prepared to sacrifice something of ourselves, maybe everything.

If that's the case we could decide to stop telling people we don't love that we love them. The goal of the Christian life is to love everyone, but until we achieve that, the more we lie about love the more we lower its currency. It's perfectly acceptable to like, enjoy, be fond of, respect, admire and be grateful to others, and not love them. There are a very few people for whom most of us would be prepared to lay down our lives. This criteria sorts out our intimates fairly quickly.

We could also decide to stop saying we love things, animals, ideas or organisations which cannot love us back. Human beings can only truly love people. Jesus did not die for an ideology or an institution. He was put to death because of his uncompromising love for all humanity everywhere. If we find ourselves saying we love our pets, house, car, job, our ideology, even our Church more than we love other human beings, then we're in trouble.

That's what I like best about the model of loving Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Just when we might expect to find him using the analogy of a family, he talks

about us being his friends. Sometimes we can hear people lament that they are 'stuck' with their families, and that they prefer their friends. It's an instructive moment, usually born out of a bitter and unloving history.

We choose our friends, and the strength of any particular friendship is usually found in how we know their history and story, and they know ours, in the way we give them time, attention and affection. A true friendship is mutual. Jesus loves us, his friends, enough to know us, be available to us, challenge and forgive us. And his love is mutual. The only thing stopping us from having a deeper relationship with Christ is our desire for it.

But Jesus also shows how friends are prepared to give their lives for one another. That's what we celebrate here each Sunday, that Jesus the Lord showed the quality and care of his love for us so that we might be empowered to go out and enable others to know and experience his love in the joyful way we sacrifice ourselves for them.

No one promised us that the Christian life would be easy. All we have is our brother Jesus and all our friends, our family in faith, to support us in every loving sacrifice we make.

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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Sunday 16th May, The Ascension of the Lord, Year B



Acts 1:1-11
Eph 1:17s-23
Mark 16:15-20

Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Bannerman, Bernard Wood, Brendon Kelaher, Fay Mohr

ANNIVERSARIES: Monica Margaret Fitzgerald

SICK: Carlo Rossi, Graham Chegwiddden, Gabriel Wood, Rebecca Penhall, Mark Murray, Bryan Hornets

*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.*

THE BREAKFAST CONVERSATION (BYO BREAKFAST!!)

For Our May **COVID-safe** gathering we will be returning to our usual venue, at the **Regional Office, The Junction**.

What? **Kris Smith, visual artist and former Coordinator of Photomedia in the School of Creative Industries at the UoN, will speak about & illustrate projects he has been involved in, and his current art practice.**

When? **Monday 17th May** Commencing at: **7.15am**. We continue to be Covid Safe, so please **BYO coffee and eats**.

At our April meeting, only 3 of about 14 had received their Covid Injection, so we will not be providing cuppas, etc. QR sign in, sanitisers, and usual Covid protocol.

Where? Rear Entrance – **St Benedict's Centre, 25 Farquhar St, The Junction**

Why? **Fellowship and information**

Who? **All welcome**

Enquiries? **Neil Jones 0410 572 579**

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT | CONFERENCE | 8-10 JULY 2021

The Conference, coordinated by the Lay Pastoral Ministry Network (formerly known as NAPPA) collaborating with the Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN), and the Mission Planners Network Oceania (MPNO) invites people to consider the events in our world, and within our Church, which present us with an opportunity to open our hearts and minds to act upon what the Spirit is asking of us at this time in Australia and Oceanic region.

The Conference encourages faith communities including clergy, staff, leadership teams, council members, ministers and volunteers; for those in pastoral care, for youth, family and education support, to engage in the life of Christ, and his Church, by exploring ways to: engage the wounded, the disillusioned, the disaffiliated, the discontented & disconnected members of the Body of Christ; heal the divisions that have caused pain in our Church; revitalise those Catholics who are just “hanging in there” so that they may once again share the Good News of Christ; encourage and resource those who have brave and bold evangelisation ideas.

Visit the website for more information: <https://pastoralministrynetwork.org/>

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.

POPE FRANCIS – REFLECTIONS ON MOTHERS

In today's fragmented world, where we risk losing our bearings, a Mother's embrace is essential. How much dispersion and solitude there is all around us! The world is completely connected, yet seems increasingly disjointed. We need to entrust ourselves to our Mother. In the Scriptures, Our Lady embraces any number of concrete situations; she is present wherever she is needed. She visits her cousin Elizabeth; she comes to the aid of the newlyweds in Cana; she encourages the disciples in the Upper Room... Mary is a cure for solitude and dispersion. She is the Mother of con-solation: she stands "with" those who are "alone". She knows that words are not enough to console; presence is needed, and she is present as a mother. Let us allow her to embrace our lives. In the *Salve Regina*, we call her "our life". This may seem exaggerated, for Christ himself is "life" (cf. *Jn 14:6*), yet Mary is so closely united to him, and so close to us, that we can do no better than to put our hands in hers and to acknowledge her as "our life, our sweetness and our hope."

And in the journey of life, *let us allow ourselves to be taken by the hand*. Mothers take their children by the hand and lovingly introduce them to life. But how many children today wander off on their own and lose their way. Thinking they are strong, they get lost; thinking they are free, they become slaves. How many, forgetting a mother's affection, live in anger with themselves and indifference to everything! How many, sad to say, react to everything and everyone with bitterness and malice! Life is such. Showing oneself "malicious" even seems at times to be a sign of strength. Yet it is nothing more than weakness. We need to learn from mothers that heroism is shown in self-giving, strength in compassion, wisdom in meekness.

God himself needed a Mother: how much more so do we! Jesus himself gave her to us, from the cross: "Behold your mother!" (*Jn 19:27*). He said this to the beloved disciple and to every disciple. Our Lady is not an optional accessory: she has to be welcomed into our life. She is the Queen of peace, who triumphs over evil and leads us along paths of goodness, who restores unity to her children, who teaches us compassion.

Mary, take us by the hand. Clinging to you, we will pass safely through the straits of history. Lead us by the hand to rediscover the bonds that unite us. Gather us beneath your mantle, in the tenderness of true love, where the human family is reborn: "*We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God*". Let us together pray these words to Our Lady: "*We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God*".

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Love One Another

Have you ever thought what it really means when Jesus commands us to love one another? At first, it seems like a simple commandment: I can love my family; my friends; I can even feel love for some people I've never met. But there was a condition that Jesus placed on the command: love one another as I have loved you. How did Jesus love? Without restriction and without seeking something in return. He loved those that no one loved and he even loved those who hated him and sought his downfall. Can I love those who hate me? Those that others ridicule and despise? Can I love without counting the cost?

**May God abundantly bless all Mothers,
Grandmothers, Great grandmothers,
and Godmothers – have a very special
Mother's Day.**



Forgot your mum? Cut out this section and you're good to go...

MOTHER'S DAY

It's Mother's Day—a good reminder to show our affection to our mothers and give them our unceasing thanks for bringing us into the world. The celebration has existed for over 100 years, but prior to its 20th-century development, there was another holiday set to honor the matron of the household: Mothering Sunday.

Catholic.org reports that it can be argued that the roots of Mother's day go back all the way to the Ancient Greeks, who held an annual spring festival dedicated to maternal goddesses. The Ancient Romans held a similar event called Hilaria, dedicated to Cybele, a mother goddess. This ceremony, practised around 250 BC, would last for three days and include parades and games.

While these holidays prove that the concept of a day set aside to honor our mothers is older than the Christian faith, it is probable that these ancient celebrations had little to do with the establishment of Mother's Day, especially since the earliest form of the holiday only developed in the Renaissance.

In the 16th century, Christians from the UK and Ireland would return to their "mother church" for a service which was held on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. A "mother church" could refer to the parish in which one was baptized, the local parish church, or even the closest cathedral, which was viewed as the mother church of all parishes in a given diocese.

Those who practised this custom were said to have gone "a-mothering," and soon it became known as "Mothering Sunday." As the popularity of "Mothering Sunday" grew, it became a day when domestic servants were given leave to be with their families. The day became one of the few times a year where a grown family could gather, as working families often had conflicting schedules.

Once the tradition became a day for family reunion, with a reference to mothers in the name, it naturally evolved to include all mothers within the celebration. For children, the long walk back home became a time for picking flowers for mom, and this would grow to the tradition of giving gifts of all sorts to mothers.

The effort to create Mother's Day was driven by Anna Jarvis, whose mother had come up with the idea. Anna began her work on the holiday after her mother's death in 1905 and it was brought to the American Congress in 1908, but there it was rejected, with representatives joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day."

Anna did not lose sight of the goal, however, and after

several years of campaigning and sending carnations, her mother's favourite flowers, to lawmakers to raise awareness of the important holiday, every state observed Mother's Day by 1911. On May 8, 1914, President Wilson signed a Joint Resolution that formally designated the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day.

Back in the UK, by the 19th century, the custom of gift giving was on the downturn, but when American soldiers were stationed in the UK during World War II, they noticed the tradition and brought it back to the States as a way to both honor mothers and boost seasonal commerce. Once the "business" aspect of Mother's Day caught on, the holiday took off in a big way.

Unfortunately, Anna Jarvis took umbrage at the commercialism of her hard-won holiday. She argued that gifts to mothers should be made by hand in order to properly express their love and gratitude. She spent the latter part of her life attempting to remove the holiday from the calendar, but was unsuccessful.

In one instance, at a meeting of American War Mothers where the group was selling carnations, which had already become closely connected to Mother's Day, Jarvis became enraged over a perceived perversion of her mother's intentions and was arrested for disturbing the peace.

Today a secular Mother's Day is celebrated by many countries, including the US, UK, India, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, Mexico, Canada, China, Japan and Belgium. It is quite possible, however, that none of these countries would have developed the practice if not for the Christian practice of Mothering Sunday.

DEFINITIONS ALL MOTHERS KNOW

- Dumbwaiter: One who asks if the children would care to order a dessert.
- Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.
- Full Name: What you call your child when you're angry with him or her.
- Independent: How we want our children to be for as long as they do everything we say.
- Puddle: A small body of water that draws in other small bodies wearing dry shoes.
- Bottle-feeding: An opportunity for Daddy to get up at 2 am.

The gift of the Holy Spirit came upon them

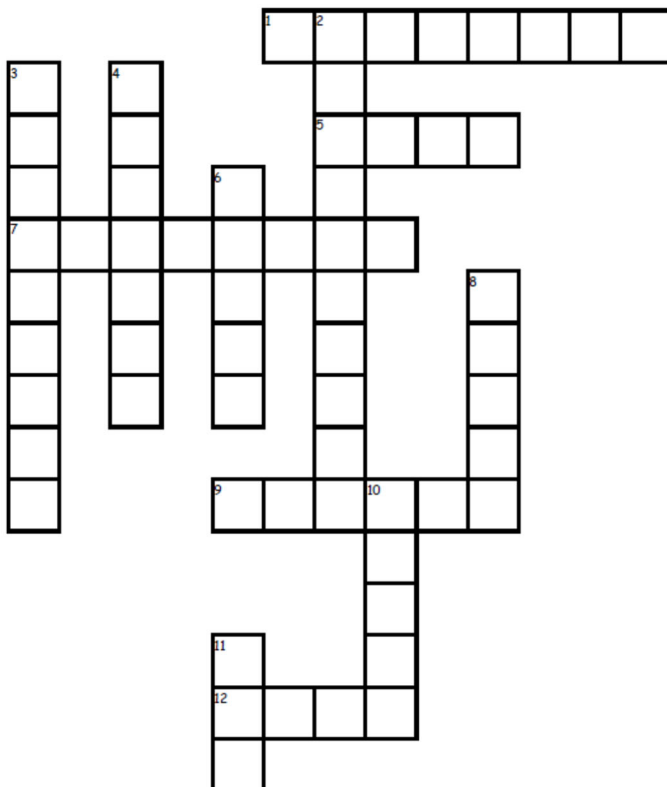
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 J Y H U V S G T N E R D L I H C C

Try to find these words:

- children
- Father
- friends
- greatest
- happy
- Holy Spirit
- languages
- love
- obey
- other
- Peter
- Son

CROSSWORD

The gift of the Holy Spirit came upon them



Across

- 1: young people
- 5: God showed his _____ for us by sending his Son to be a sacrifice
- 7: another word for best
- 9: the opposite of mother
- 12: to do as you are told

Down

- 2: the _____ was given to Gentiles (two words)
- 3: after the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit they could speak different _____
- 4: the people you care about and like to spend time with are your _____
- 6: Jesus said, 'love each _____, as I have loved you'
- 8: this man spoke to a group of people who were then given the Holy Spirit
- 10: another word for glad
- 11: God sent his _____ to be a sacrifice so our sins could be forgiven