



# 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 15TH AUGUST 2021

# THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan  
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  
P: (02) 4979 1101F: (02) 4962 4644  
E: [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
W: [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au)

### Our Staff

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

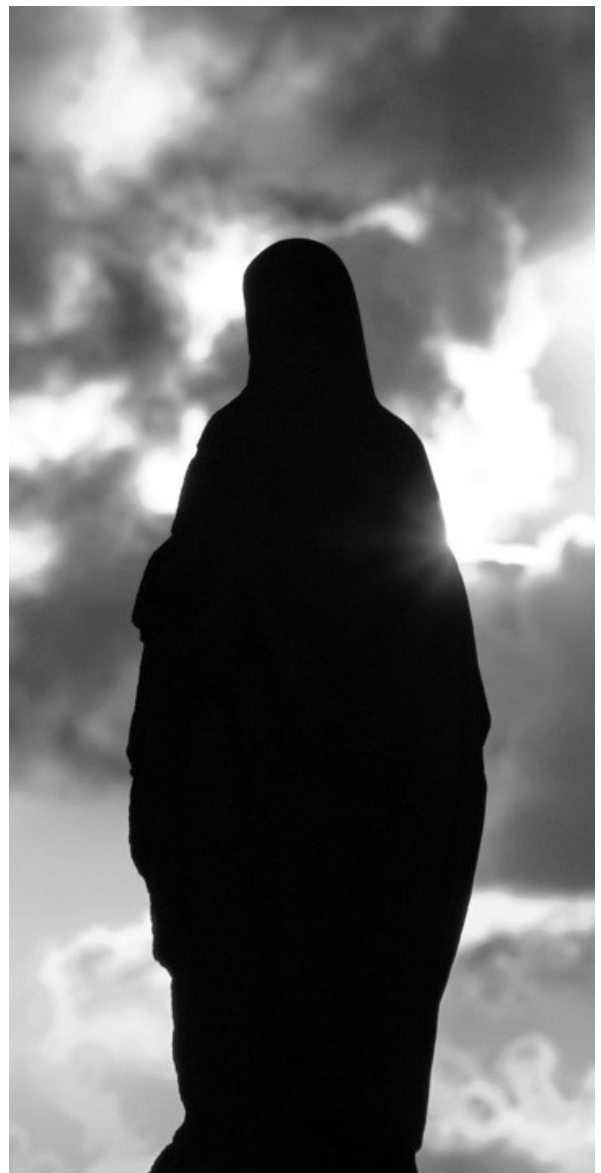
### Other Contacts

**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.



*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)

20th Week of Ordinary Time, Year B

### **ALL CHURCHES ARE CLOSED THIS WEEK AT LEAST UNTIL FRIDAY**

Monday—16th August

*Memorial of St Stephen of Hungary*

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

Tuesday—17th August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

8:30am Mass @ Stockton —Cancelled

Wednesday—18th August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West —Cancelled

9:15am Tighes Hill—Cancelled

Thursday—19th August

*Memorial of St John Eudes*

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

8:30am Mass @ Stockton —Cancelled

Friday—20th August

*Memorial of St Bernard*

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield —TBA

10:15am Mass @ The Junction—TBA

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)—TBA

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral—TBA

Saturday—21st August

*Memorial of St Pius X*

9.15am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)—TBA

5:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West—TBA

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral—TBA

Sunday—22nd August

*21st Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's—TBA

8am Mass @ Tighes Hill—TBA

9am Mass @ The Junction—TBA

9:00am Mass @ Stockton—TBA

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

*Live streamed via the Diocesan website:*

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/)

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction—TBA

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral—TBA

5pm Mass @ The Cathedral—TBA

5:30pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West -TBA

## SEASONS OF CREATION – FILM COMPETITION

Do you love making TikTok videos or short films? Amidst the climate crisis and the coronavirus pandemic, our sisters and brothers are clamoring for hope and restoration. NOW is the time to come together and take action! #SeasonOfCreation. You are invited to participate in a film contest which involves creating a 2-minute film that explores the 2021 Seasons of Creation theme – A Home for All.

For more information, visit [https://](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/)

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/)

or contact [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **THE CHOSEN SERIES ONE DISCUSSION GROUP**

Have you seen the crowd funded series 'The Chosen' and would like an opportunity to discuss each episode through a guided formation program?

The Chosen- Series One Discussion Group begins August 18. To register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-1-discussion-group-tickets-164268530597>

or contact via [formed@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:formed@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **BOOK CLUB**

**Sunday, 5th September @ 6pm:** Bookclub meets to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO**

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. On two Wednesdays, we employ the practice of *Lectio Divina* to prayerfully reflect on the Gospel of the coming Sunday. One Wednesday we enjoy bible study.

The program for August is as follows:

18th August: Lectio Divina

25th August: No meeting

1st September: Lectio Divina

To participate, please email the parish office.

The Bible Study series from Ascension Press, **Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible** by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer, is an engaging journey through the Bible.

## PARISH CENSUS

The event of COVID lockdown last year has certainly brought to light around the parish that our Parishioner Information is sorely sparse. As a result we are conducting a census of our parishes. Please, please pick up a census form from the back of the church and update your details for the Parish database. To return either scan and email back to us or send it to the Parish office.

## AMEN CAMiNO 2022 INFORMATION SESSION

The aMeN caMiNo takes place over five consecutive days. The pilgrimage starts at St John's Chapel, Maitland and concludes at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

Those interested in finding out about the 2022 aMeN caMiNo experiences should attend an online Information Session on Saturday 28 August at 2pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/amen-camino-information-session-tickets-162230268099>

## 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](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

## Prayer Requests



**SPECIAL INTENTION:** Prayers for the special intention of Emma L

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Maree Martin, Sheelagh Ruggero, Audrey Gilholme

**SICK:** Kath Murray, Maree Martin, Sheelagh Ruggero, Grahame Chegvidden, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, John Tobin, Paul O'Callaghan, Rozsa Silivinec, Dianne McGoldrick, Peter Skinner, Carmel Blair  
*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](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads).*

## LOCKDOWN

As you would be aware, the NSW Government has enacted a lockdown for certain local government areas in the Newcastle and Hunter areas. These lockdown provisions are in place for an initial period of seven (7 days) from 5pm on Thursday 5 August 2021. Amendments to the Public Health (COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak) Order 2021 ('the Order') were gazetted on Thursday. The effect of those amendments is to extend restrictions currently in force for the Greater Sydney area to eight (8) local government areas. Affected Local Government Areas The following local government areas are now subjected to additional restrictions:

- City of Cessnock
- City of Lake Macquarie
- City of Maitland
- City of Newcastle
- Dungog
- Muswellbrook
- Port Stephens
- Singleton

As our parishes sit within one of the above local government areas, we are now in 'lockdown' for the next seven days.

'Greater Sydney restrictions'

The amended Order imposes what is described as the 'Greater Sydney restrictions' in our local government area. A good summary of those restrictions can be obtained by visiting the relevant NSW government webpage ([www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-regions](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-regions)).

The biggest impact of the new restrictions is the inability to celebrate public Masses and the need to close our churches except for funerals. The Cathedral will live-stream its 9.30am Mass this weekend (accessible via the Cathedral's YouTube channel - [www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton/videos](http://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton/videos)) for those who may wish to tune in.

The quickness with which the lockdown has been announced and imposed requires a certain degree of nimbleness on the part of parishes. The office is closed and all Parish activities are closed, except those already online. Hopefully we are only locked down for another seven days.

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

*21st Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Jos 24:1-2. 15-18

Eph 5:21-32

Jn 6: 60-69

# Reflection

By Richard Leonard SJ

Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it,' she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat. So he gave the letter another try. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.' Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

This humorous story has a serious lesson for us on the feast of the Assumption. Throughout history there are those who have ransomed the memory of Mary to fit in with how they understand women should behave in society. As a result, sometimes, Mary is presented as meek and mild, passive and subservient. The problem with this view is that it is impossible to reconcile it with the ten stories we have of Mary in the New Testament: the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation, flight into Egypt, losing Jesus in the Temple, going to bring Jesus home from his public ministry, the wedding feast at Cana, being at the foot of the Cross, and Pentecost.

The strength and power of Mary's witness is most especially captured in the Magnificat, which we hear in today's Gospel. Here Mary extols how God is saving us by turning the world on its head, doing the very opposite of what was expected.

The New Testament does not demonstrate a meek woman, devoid of creativity and initiative. It shows a strong, noble woman who put her free will at the disposal of God's will. That is what the feast of the Assumption celebrates: that because God will never be outdone in fidelity and generosity, he remained utterly faithful to Mary through death, as she was utterly faithful to him in life.

The Catholic Tradition has always honoured Mary as being obedient, the pre-eminent disciple of her Son

and the sign of what could await all Christians who are invited to share in the mission of Jesus on earth. Religious obedience is not passive. We listen to the voice of God and choose to say yes to Christ's love and liberation. Discipleship does not mean our personality counts for nothing. Rather, it's the valuing of every individual's ability to contribute to Christ's kingdom in a unique way. Prefiguring what can happen for all of us does not diminish the particular gifts God lavished on Mary, but reassures us that God recognises his own in this world and the next.

May this Assumption Day see us then stop ransoming the image of Mary to the distortions of the past and find in her creative and free self-giving a pattern for our Christian lives, and a beacon of hope to which we can hold firm.

© Richard Leonard SJ

**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.

## **Historical Context**

### **Feast of the Assumption**

*Since the 5th Century there has been an active tradition and belief around the assumption of Mary. The tradition states that Mary was physically 'taken up' into heaven at the end of her life. It is believed that her soul and her body remained united. This ancient belief was defined as an infallible teaching of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is one of only two infallible statements that have been defined as such and both related to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast is celebrated on August 15 and is a Holy Day of Obligation.*



## AUGUST APPEAL

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning is the official charitable agency of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. At our CatholicCare, everybody is welcome. Our Community Programs receive no government funding, so we're calling on the Catholic and broader community to help. After a difficult eighteen months, we expect to be welcoming even more people through our doors.

### You can help.

Help us feed more people in our community kitchens.

Help us support more refugees in our programs.

Help us deliver more meals to people in need.

Please give a gift to our 2021 August Appeal today. Every dollar counts.

Your generosity will support those who have nowhere else to turn, ensuring no one goes without and that all are welcomed with food, support, and a smile.

### Donate today

Send your cheque to PO Box 775 Newcastle 2300

Give a gift online

[www.catholiccare.org.au/augustappeal](http://www.catholiccare.org.au/augustappeal)

## THE GOOD OIL 2021 WRITERS' AWARD

The Good Oil 2021 Writers' Award is an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The award aims to support and encourage the development of emerging and published writers.

The Good Oil's editorial vision is to nourish the spirit, stimulate thinking, promote social justice, and encourage reflection and dialogue about issues of the day from a Christian, Catholic, Good Samaritan perspective.

The theme for the award is Inclusivity, which is embodied in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37).

A panel of judges will award first, second and third place. The prize for the winning entry will be \$600; second prize \$400; third prize \$200.

Entrants may submit more than one piece of writing, to a maximum of three (3) pieces, in the following writing styles:

Reflection – creative writing or first person reflective writing

Opinion – first person personal opinion

Profile – profile of a person based on an interview and research

News feature – issues-based article written in journalistic style

For further information about the award, to download the guidelines and entry form, <https://www.goodsams.org.au/the-good-oil/the-good-oil-2021-writers-award/>

Entries close at midnight on Sunday August 22, 2021.

## REQUEST FOR INPUT

This year, Holy Family Catholic Primary School Merewether Beach has been undertaking a Vision and Mission Statement renewal process. They consulted with the Catholic Schools Office and specifically the Religious Education & Spirituality Team, engaged in a whole day of staff development which culminated in the creation of several interim drafts and ultimately a final draft Vision and Mission statement that is being shared with you today.

The Vision and Mission statement of any school is integral to the culture and climate in which a student learns and engages with others. It is designed to highlight visibly, the beliefs and characteristics we espouse to uphold and emulate as members of this community. It features the aspirations we wish to witness in the everyday and the transformative ways in which this is undertaken.

As Holy Family is a faith community that extends beyond the school environment, they would be grateful for the input of parishioners of St. Benedict's Parish. Parish members are asked to read the vision and mission statement at the end of this notification and forward any feedback directly to the school Principal, Ann Jackson, at the following email address by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August:

[ann.jackson1@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ann.jackson1@mn.catholic.edu.au)

The staff of Holy Family thank you for your time and consideration of their Vision and Mission statement and look forward to hearing the thoughts of parish members.

### VISION STATEMENT

*Inspired by Jesus the teacher, we love, we learn, we serve.*

### MISSION STATEMENT

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School, our mission is to:

Love with justice, dignity, and respect for all

Love as disciples of Jesus

Love through stewardship of creation

Learn to be collaborative, lifelong learners

Learn to be resilient in the face of challenges

Learn to be courageous citizens for a fair world

Serve by sharing our gifts with humility

Serve by caring for others with kindness and compassion

Serve by helping others in need

## TODAY'S LITURGY

### Entrance Antiphon Cf. Rev 12:1

A great sign appeared in heaven:  
a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon  
beneath her feet,  
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

### 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.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

*I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with  
the moon at her feet.*

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 44:10-12. 16. R. v.10

(R.) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in  
gold.

1. The daughters of kings are among your loved  
ones.  
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.  
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's house.  
(R.)
2. So will the king desire your beauty:  
He is your lord, pay homage to him.  
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of the king. (R.)

### Second Reading 1 Cor 15:20-26

*As members of Christ all people will be raised,  
Christ first, and after him all who belong to  
him.*

### Gospel Acclamation Mt 27:55

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Mary is taken up to heaven,  
and the angels of God shout for joy.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel Lk 1:39-56

*The Almighty has done great things for me; he  
has lifted up the lowly.*

### 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.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this bread and drink this cup we  
proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again.

### Communion Antiphon Lk 1:48-49

All generations will call me blessed,  
for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

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### THE CHUCKLE...

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Mary and Joseph took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied: "They couldn't get a babysitter?"



### REGISTER AT:

**NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG.AU/  
LORDHAVEMERCY**

You will receive Daily Devotions for AUSTRALIA PRAYS from 16 - 22 August 2021 and Zoom ID for nightly prayer calls 8PM - 9PM over the same period. This includes access to the 9AM - 9PM Zoom Prayer Call on Sunday 22 August 2021. Will also keep up you updated with other prayer news.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PANDEMIC SUNDAY 22 AUGUST 2021

Sunday 22 August has been deemed a National Day of Prayer for the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The team at the National Day of Prayer & Fasting, in consultation with many church leaders and prayer networks, including Bishop Philip Huggins and the National Council of Churches, is calling Australia to united prayer in the light of the current COVID-19 crisis.

We are drawn to pray together across the land, given the current level of need and distress. Our theme is found in this beautiful liturgical prayer: ***“Lord have mercy — Jesus have mercy”***. Inspiration for this prayer is found in the story of the blind beggar in Luke 18:35 and his cry to Jesus for healing.

This simple prayer for mercy is found throughout the scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments.

***“Our eyes look to the Lord our God till He shows us His mercy.” — Ps. 123:2***

Participants are of course encouraged to add to this prayer, and also to fast as they feel led.

We encourage you to pray in your own church and in your own way at this time. To facilitate a national prayer focus, the team at the National Day of Prayer & Fasting are providing the following prayer resources and opportunities.

1. Every day from **Monday 16 – Sunday 22 August 2021**, a **Daily Devotion** will be sent out to those who register. Each Daily Devotion will include a prayer from a different Church leader. Register Below.
2. Every night from **8PM AEST, Monday 16 – Sunday 22 August 2021**, a nightly **Prayer Call** will take place with input from a different church leader each night. Register Below.
3. On **Sunday 22 August 2021 from 9AM – 9PM**, the National Day of Prayer & Fasting team will host a **Zoom Prayer call** featuring Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Come for a short while or come for a long while. Let us join in prayer for our nation.

# JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

## God has done great things for me

LA 1.19.06

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

Try to find these words:

baby  
child  
Elizabeth  
Holy Spirit  
hungry  
Judea  
Mary  
mercy  
power  
rich  
three  
Zechariah

# CROSSWORD

## God has done great things for me

LA 1.19.06



Across

- 1: this woman was Mary's cousin
- 5: infant or young person
- 6: the Lord gives good things to eat to those who feel this way
- 7: God gives \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are humble
- 9: Mary went to stay in a town in this area
- 10: God shows \_\_\_\_\_ to those who worship him
- 11: a newborn child

Down

- 2: The husband of Mary's cousin
- 3: the \_\_\_\_\_ came down upon Elizabeth (two words)
- 4: Mary stayed with Elizabeth for this many months
- 8: the opposite of poor
- 10: Jesus' mother