



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 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

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
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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)

23rd Week of Ordinary Time, Year B

ALL CHURCHES ARE CLOSED THIS WEEK

Monday—6th September

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

Tuesday—7th September

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

8:30am Mass @ Stockton —Cancelled

Wednesday—8th September

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West —Cancelled

9:15am Tighes Hill—Cancelled

Thursday—9th September

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

8:30am Mass @ Stockton —Cancelled

Friday—11th September

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield —Cancelled

10:15am Mass @ The Junction—Cancelled

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

Saturday—12th September

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

5:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West—Cancelled

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

Sunday—13th September

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's—Cancelled

8am Mass @ Tighes Hill—Cancelled

9am Mass @ The Junction—Cancelled

9:00am Mass @ Stockton—Cancelled

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed via the Diocesan website:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction—Cancelled

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

5pm Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

5:30pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West—Cancelled

HUMANITARIAN CRISES UNFOLDING IN AFGHANISTAN AND LEBANON

As the situations in Afghanistan and Lebanon deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

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 September is as follows:

8th September: Lectio Divina

15th September: Bible Study

22nd September: Lectio Divina

29th September: No meeting

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.

Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Boronia Walker, John Tobin Snr

ANNIVERSARIES: Brendan Burgess, Mary Burgess, Dr John Burgess, Grace Mather, Dot Bunts, Betty Hootten, Ronald Raftery, Laurie Smith, Pam Hogg, Valda Quinn, Audrey O'Sullivan, Maureen Grealy

SICK: Kath Murray, Grahame Chegidden, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, John Tobin, Paul O'Callaghan, Rozsa Silivinec, Dianne McGoldrick, Peter Skinner, Carmel Blair, Margaret Jones

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.

JOIN OUR DIOCESAN COUNCILS

Our Diocesan Councils need you! Becoming a Council volunteer is a wonderful opportunity to not only meet fellow members who share your interests, but also to make a difference in an area you're passionate about!

Pastoral Ministries are seeking expressions of interest for these Councils:

Diocesan Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry Council

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Council

Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People

Diocesan Council for Women

Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council

Diocesan Social Justice Council

Check out our Information Pack to find a Council that interests you!

<https://tinyurl.com/ysfzr4s7>

You can submit an Expression of Interest Form here:

<https://tinyurl.com/uvja9s>

PLENARY COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS

In preparation for the upcoming First Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council our Diocesan Plenary Council members Bernadette Gibson, Fr Andrew Doohan VG, and Helen Belcher are seeking input from our diocesan community.

You are invited to join them for a series of conversations around the Plenary Council agenda and its associated questions, and guided by the Holy Spirit, so they can hear from as many people as possible. Plenary Conversations will be over a number of weeks each Thursday from 26/8 to 30/9 - 7.00pm to 8.30pm via Zoom.

Program for Plenary Council Conversations:

Online Registration is now open to register for all or one of the conversations.

Thursday 9/9 – Prayer

Thursday 16/9 – Structures

Thursday 23/9 – Governance

Thursday 30/9 – Institutions

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/plenary-council-lead-up-conversations-tickets-168063956819>

The Chuckle



The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

After explaining the commandment to honour your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Lot again...A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 5th September @ 6pm: Bookclub meets via Zoom 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

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Is 50: 5-9

Jas 2: 14-18

Mk 8:27-35

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

"AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR " 19 MARCH 2021- 26 JUNE 2022

The "Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year" is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.

Over the course of ten monthly episodes, hear the Holy Father talk about each of the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, along with the testimonies of different families who will share some aspects of their daily lives.

This initiative is a joint collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, and aims to facilitate the reading of the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection.

To access this resource:

<http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorse/10-video-amoris-laetitia.html>

TRIBUNAL

Marriage breakdown is a distressing experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney on 4979 1370 or email tribunal@mn.catholic.org.au

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING

On Saturday, 31st July, the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering was launched online. Hundreds of men and men's groups have already signed up to be a part this inspirational event. The gathering aims to encourage all men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, church and the world.

The Australian Catholic Men's Gathering is a free event and all the pre-recorded events can be downloaded and watched individually, or as part of a small group.

The opportunities to gather at this time are complicated by the need to act safely during the pandemic. And yet, it is important to gather and connect.

Our Diocese will be hosting four online meetings to watch and discuss the four sessions of the Men's Gathering. These sessions will be an opportunity to engage with the material and with other men, while also being an opportunity to explore men's ministry in our diocese and our local communities.

These online meetings will kick off on the Wednesday after Fathers' Day and run for four weeks during September. Each session will run for an hour. (7.30-8.30pm – 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th September).

If you would like to be a part of our Diocesan online gatherings, or if you would like to explore how you could run the sessions in your own local community, please email brendon.mannyx@mn.catholic.org.au to register your interest.

For more information, visit

www.catholicmensgathering.com.au.

Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day, you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.

Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Reflection

by Richard Leonard

I read the other day a true story about a baby girl who was seriously ill in a Neonatal ICU. The paediatric specialist said there was very little hope. The baby's five-year-old brother, Michael, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. 'I want to sing to her', he kept saying. Children were not allowed in the ICU, but Michael's mother eventually insisted that he be able to see his sister.

When he got to the humidicrib he sang: 'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are grey'. The nurse reported that as Michael sang, the baby's pulse rate began to calm down and become steady. 'Keep on singing, Michael', encouraged his mother with tears in her eyes. 'You never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.' The baby recovered and left the hospital three weeks later.

I am not pretending for a moment that Michael's song healed his sister, but we should never underestimate the power of human support and love. It helps us to be healed.

The Gospel story of the healing of the deaf mute is striking because it is one of the few stories where the crowd makes the request of healing from Jesus. This is understandable given that the man cannot speak for himself, but the scene, as Mark writes it, is very touching. Mark tells us that the crowd brought the man to Jesus. 'They' beg Jesus to heal him, 'they' are ordered not to tell anyone about the miracle, but 'they' go straight out and tell everyone about it.

What happens there is what happens here every Sunday. Coming to Mass is not a private affair. It is not my Mass, my prayer, my Church. The pronouns we use reveal a lot about our attitudes. It's our Eucharist, our prayer and our Church. Within the Mass there are opportunities for private prayer, but Eucharist is, essentially, an action of the assembled community. In our own way we bring the deaf and the mute to Jesus each time we gather. This is what the Prayers of the Faithful are all about. This is why they are so important.

When we visit another parish we can tell a lot about it by the care with which the intercessions are composed and compiled. If they only attend to the needs of the parish and never with the wider Church or the world, if they focus on the needs of the Catholic world and never with the plight of those in crisis, who

may not share our faith or may hold to another or no faith, it says so much.

The Church has always believed in the power of intercessory prayer. Not that God needs to be reminded what our world needs. God knows that better than we know it. But intercessory prayer sorts our priorities and establishes who has a claim on our affections and concerns. It also enables others to know that we stand in solidarity with them.

And miracles still happen when we are one with those for whom we hope and pray. Sometimes the first miracle that occurs is that we notice the needs of some group beyond our immediate circle. Their suffering moves us and we choose to help them.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that Christ removes our blindness, opens our ears and loosens our tongues so that we speak up for those who are most in need of a healing word that brings them justice and peace.

© 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.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Isaiah's Prophecy

All three synoptic gospel writers were at pains to demonstrate that Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of the scriptures. This reference to Isaiah's prophecy appears in all three synoptic gospels. It is perhaps most familiar in the context of the Gospel of Luke, where the gospel writer actually combines it with a different passage from Isaiah and portrays Jesus as reading it in the synagogue as an announcement of his mission (Lk 4: 16-21). It is good to have the Isaiah text as the first reading this week and then see the way it is referred to in the gospel of the day.

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon Ps 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

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 Is 35:4-7

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and
the tongues of the dumb speak.*

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) I will praise the Lord all my days, make music to
my God, while I live, make music to my God, while
I live.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to the oppressed.

It is God who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

2 It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who protects the stranger,
and upholds the widow and orphan.

3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God from age to age.

Second Reading Jas 2:1-5

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to
inherit the kingdom?*

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23 Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 7:31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

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 Cf. Ps 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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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://>

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/

or contact rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

GOSPEL FOCUS

The things within

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person ‘unclean’ – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.

SEASON OF CREATION

Amid crises that have shaken our world, the global Christian family was awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other during the ecumenical Season of Creation.

During the 2021 Season of Creation, from 1st September through 4th October, thousands of Christians on six continents get together for a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, and to discover radically new ways of living with creation.

More than ever before, the global Christian family will unite to pray and take action for our common home.

Pints with a Purpose | Explore Season of Creation with Rose McAllister

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment.

MN Catholic Youth welcome Rose McAllister (Manager - Formation and Education) who will explore this year's theme; inviting us to consider how we can celebrate this season so we are caring for our common home.

Time: 7:00PM

Date: Monday, 6 September 2021

More information: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pints-with-a-purpose-season-of-creation-tickets-168044011161>

Seasons of Creation Celebration

This year the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, is partnering with Seasons of Creation to help raise awareness of the urgent need to care for the earth and for one another.

Join us to hear guest speakers break open this year's Season of Creation theme, “A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God”.

Finalists from the film competition will be viewed and the winner will be announced.

For more information on the film competition go to:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/upcoming-events/

Time: 2:00PM

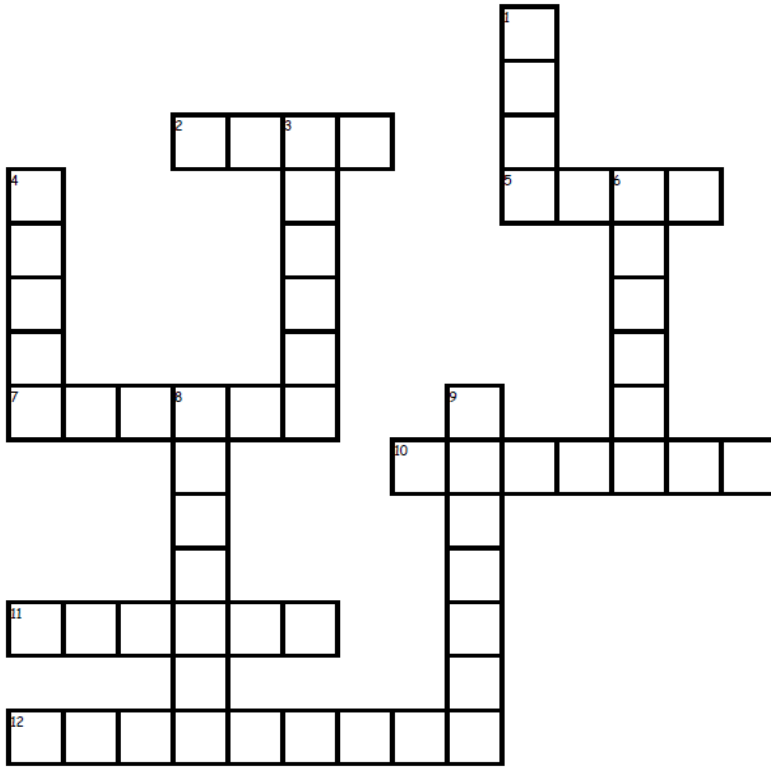
Date: Saturday, 25 September 2021

More information: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-of-creation-tickets-167271083313>

CROSSWORD

God gives to all who love him

Is 35:4-7c
Ps 146:6d-7, 7c-9a, 9bcd-10, R. v.1b
Jas 2:1-E
Mk 7:31-37



Across

- 2: the opposite of worst
- 5: a man who was _____ was brought to Jesus for healing
- 7: a hot and sandy place
- 10: God has promised poor people a share in this
- 11: Jesus tells us that we should not treat some people _____ than others
- 12: Jesus went to this land and made a deaf man hear

Down

- 1: the people talked about Jesus, saying 'Everything he does is _____!'
- 3: if something is making no noise it is _____
- 4: someone who can't see is _____
- 6: the people felt this way after Jesus made the deaf man hear
- 8: Jesus said this word, which means 'open up'
- 9: to heal the deaf man, Jesus put his _____ in the man's ears

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

God gives to all who love him

Is 35:4-7a
Ps 146:6d-7, 7c-9a, 9bcd-10, R. v.1b
Jas 2:1-5
Mk 7:31-37

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

Try to find these words:

- amazed
- best
- better
- blind
- deaf
- Decapolis
- desert
- Effatha
- fingers
- good
- kingdom
- silent