



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 26TH SEPTEMBER 2021

26TH 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
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
P: (02) 4979 1101F: (02) 4962 4644
E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: 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)

26th Week of Ordinary Time, Year B

ALL CHURCHES REMAIN CLOSED THIS WEEK

Monday—27th September

Memorial of St Vincent de Paul

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

Tuesday—28th September

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

8:30am Mass @ Stockton —Cancelled

Wednesday—29th September

Feast of Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West —Cancelled

9:15am Tighes Hill—Cancelled

Thursday—30th September

Memorial of St Jerome

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

8:30am Mass @ Stockton —Cancelled

Friday—1st October

Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield —Cancelled

10:15am Mass @ The Junction—Cancelled

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

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral—Cancelled

Saturday—2nd October

Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels

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—3rd October

27th 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:

29th September: No meeting

6th October: Lectio

13th October: Bible Study

20th October: Lectio

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: Julie Kershaw, Alojz Novak

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Smith, Pat Francis

SICK: Kath Murray, Grahame Chegwiddden, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, 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.

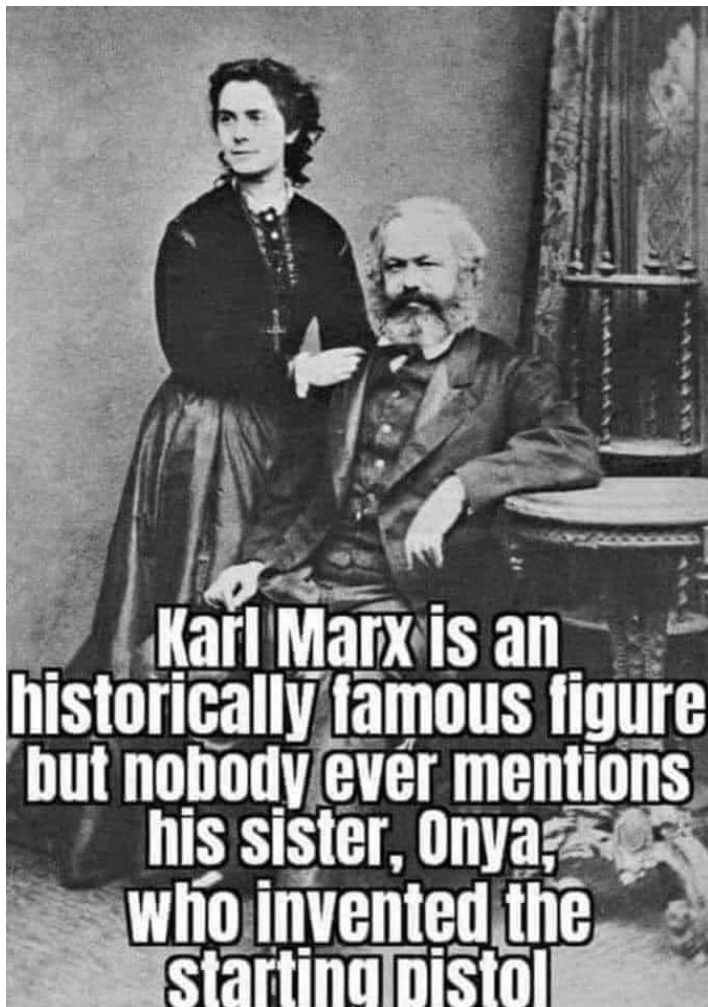
Program for Plenary Council Conversations:

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

Thursday 30/9 – Institutions

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

The Chuckle



After dinner, a boy was asked if he could clear the table. He needed a running start, but he did it!

aMeN caMiNo

aMeN caMiNo Expressions of Interest are now open for 2022.

Dates for 2022 are May 28 - June 1, June 18-22, July 2-6, July 9-13 & August 6-10.

For more information and to register your interest, go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/amen-camino/> or contact formed@mn.catholic.org.au

ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY | RITUAL BODIES AS 'REASONABLE WORSHIP': PUTTING LITURGY IN PROPER ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE

Bruce T Morrill SJ will present on Ritual Bodies as 'Reasonable Worship': Putting liturgy in proper ethical perspective. In our current Synod process we hear a longing for more formation opportunities so this lecture is an opportunity not to be missed. It will explore the challenges of theological rhetoric for 21st century Catholics, and how those challenges can illuminate the connection between liturgy and ethical living: 18 October 2021 10:00AM-11:30AM Register: www.acu.edu.au/publiclecturecf

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Gen 2:18-24

Heb 2:9-11

Mk 10:2-16

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>

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.

Reflection

by Richard Leonard SJ

Today's gospel makes me very pleased I'm a Catholic, and that we don't take the bible literally. Our Christian brothers and sisters who insist on the literal truth of the scriptures must have a tough time trying to avoid cutting off their hands and feet, plucking out their eyes and worrying about how hot hell is! I'm not sure about them, but I know my feet have taken me to places I wish I'd not gone, and when I got there my eyes saw things I wish I'd not seen. Still, in spite of the times I've let myself down, I am glad I'm still in one piece, and not all that worried about the worms and weather in hell!

As Catholics we believe the Scriptures reveal the truth of our salvation – they are not books of fact. Jesus was a skilled and powerful communicator. And like all great teachers he used metaphor and exaggeration to make his point. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus takes evil very seriously. He is always conscious of it around him and is aware that it comes from within us, and without us. Jesus teaches us today to stop doing the destructive things that prevent us from loving God, each other and ourselves.

Sinful behaviour often falls into two categories of human activity: habitual and compulsive. Habits are unusual things. There are good habits, like saying 'please' and 'thank you'. There are habits that can start out well-intentioned enough, but end up being obsessions, like caring for one's physical fitness. And there are habits that bring moments of relief or let us off the hook – like lying, dishonesty and stealing – but always end up being destructive.

Compulsive behaviour, however, is of a very different order. Gambling, drinking, shopping, smoking, violence, work, sex, eating, drugs, pornography, money and the Internet are fairly common modern manifestations of compulsive behaviour. As heart-breaking as these addictions are, they are the presenting problems of deeper issues related to self-esteem, personal history and even genetic disposition.

One of the comments I've heard people make about their compulsive behaviour is, 'I found myself doing it again and I am not sure how or why'. No doubt there are some people who feel so lonely and get so depressed about their habitual or compulsive behaviour, they contemplate severing an arm, a leg or gouging an eye.

Jesus underlines that we have to stop our destructive behaviour and offers three pieces of practical advice so we can. Firstly, do whatever helps. For some people the most unusual solutions attend to the deeper issues and help us piece our lives back together. It doesn't matter whether others approve of it, or it's related to religious faith, for as long as it doesn't lead to other destructive behaviour then, 'whoever (or whatever) is not against us, is for us'.

Secondly, accept help. None of us can battle through life carrying all our burdens on our own. Steps four to six of Alcoholics Anonymous deal with sharing the exact nature of our burdens as a means to coming to terms with them. Our family and friends are not mind readers and we need to seek out wise counsel and follow it wisely. The help and support we receive could be like the cup of refreshing water Jesus tells us about today.

Finally, habitual and compulsive behaviour always has a pattern. St Ignatius Loyola taught in the sixteenth century that it was only when we regularly examined ourselves to see where, when, how and with whom we are most likely to walk away from God's love, that we can work out why we do it and change the pattern. And when we really know ourselves as we are, and not as we would like to be, we have the chance to choose life over death more often than not.

© Richard Leonard SJ. www.liturgyhelp.com.au

GOSPEL FOCUS

Anyone not against us is for us

It is sometimes quite baffling why the movement for ecumenical dialogue is so labored and apparently delivering such limited results. It seems that it is human nature to dwell much more on what makes us different rather than on what we have in common. Unfortunately, efforts to build dialogue between Christian churches seem to inevitably turn up the differences that impede dialogue more than the commonalities that foster dialogue. Jesus made it clear that "anyone who is not against us is for us". Perhaps if we focus on the common goal of leading people to Jesus we can get beyond the differences that set us against each other.

PARISHES IN HARMONY WITH CREATION

You are warmly invited to the Parishes in Harmony with Creation.

To be held on Wednesday 6 October from 10:00 am to 11:00 am or a repeat of previous session from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

[Eventbrite Registration is open now.](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/parishes-in-harmony-with-creation-tickets-169193336825)

(<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/parishes-in-harmony-with-creation-tickets-169193336825>)

The one-hour online presentation and discussion will explore how parishes can best respond to Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical *Laudato si'*: On Care For Our Common Home.

On 04 October 2021, the Vatican will release resources for its *Laudato si* Action Platform. With the expected media coverage, some parishioners might want their parish to commit to the *Laudato si* Action Platform. Parish Priest and Parish Leaders are aware of this initiative.

The Parishes in Harmony with Creation will include:

- a brief overview of the main teaching in *Laudato si'*;
- an overview of the *Laudato si* Action Platform;
- an overview of the Catholic Earthcare Parishes option and other resources;
- an introduction to the Diocesan Environmental Sustainability Manager; and
- small group discussion of the hopes and challenges of developing Parishes in Harmony with Creation

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 3rd October @ 6pm: Bookclub meets via Zoom to discuss *The Birdman's Wife* by Melissa Ashley. 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

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon Dn 3:31,29,30,43,42

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your
mercy.

Gloria

***Glory, 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: Nm 11:25-29

*Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees
that all people may prophesy?*

We pause for silent reflection.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the LORD is perfect;
it revives the soul.
The decrees of the LORD are steadfast;
they give wisdom to the simple.
The fear of the LORD is pure,
abiding forever.
The judgments of the LORD are true;
they are, all of them, just.
So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect their own errors?
From hidden faults acquit me.

From presumption restrain your servant;
may it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin.

Second Reading: Jas 3:16 – 4:3

*Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from
seeds sown in a spirit of peace.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

*Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your
hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.*

We pause for silent reflection.

Homily

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 blood we proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.



One of the latest appeal letters distributed by Catholic Mission focuses on the story of Kusa, a 5-year-old boy whose mother Samorn* is being supported by a kindergarten centre in Bangkok, in Thailand. The kindergarten is an initiative of the Good Shepherd Sisters who, like Jesus reminds his followers, affirm the importance of “receiving one child” in His name. As October, the time when the Church celebrates World Mission Month, approaches, let us turn our hearts and minds – and perhaps our financial assistance – to the missionary work that the Catholic Church does with, and for, children around the world, including Thailand. Jesus puts one child in “their midst” – there are many like Kusa, in the midst of our consciousness, who need us to provide them with hope for their long-term future, through education, food, uniforms and health care.

For more information about the vital, life-giving work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand, go to https://www.catholicmission.org.au/mothers?utm_term=parish

For a short video clip, focusing on Kusa and his mother Samorn* (not her real name), go to <https://youtu.be/pbZkDejKzHY>

To follow up Catholic Mission, about any aspect of its work or your support and contact details, please call the Diocesan Director in Maitland/Newcastle, David McGovern on 0488 115 401 or email him at dmcgovern@catholicmission.org.au

LIVING & GOSPEL

Cut it out!

The thought of cutting off a hand or foot or tearing out an eye all seem a bit extreme if taken literally. Whilst Jesus didn't mean for us to do a bit of self-surgery, if we find ourselves caught in behavior that is self-destructive or hurtful to others, the only solution is quite literally to 'cut it out'. We know within ourselves when our actions are life-giving or life-harming. Surprisingly we often persist with harmful behavior even when we know it's harmful. Jesus' solution is simple: cut out the negative behavior and get back on track. That's the principle behind Reconciliation.

2021 ABRAHAM CONFERENCE

The Abraham Conference plays an important role in bringing Jews, Christians and Muslims together to discuss contemporary issues of concern for the members of the three religions and for the wider society.

The theme of the 2021 Abraham Conference is Women Leaders in the Abrahamic Traditions: Role Models for Our Time. Our context is the continuing strong impact and significance of the Me Too and Black Lives Matter movements and the revelations of abuse in our federal parliament, all of which brought thousands of women onto the streets in protest.

This year, the Abraham Conference wants to highlight the positive role of women in the Abrahamic traditions. The three speakers will help conference attendees recover some of the lost traditions of inspiring women leaders, to highlight the contribution and the difference they made in their time.

Time: 2:30PM-4:00PM

Date: 10 October 2021

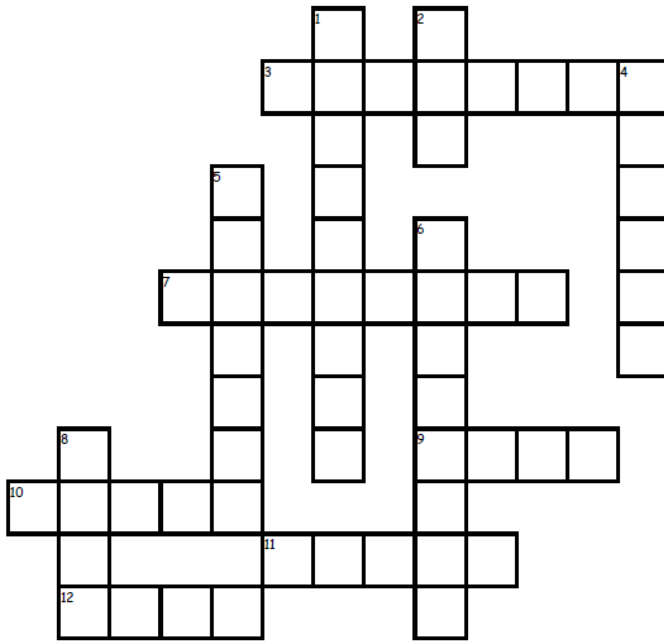
Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/2021-abraham-conference>

What limits do we set on the Spirit? How do we try to confine God by the structures we embrace, the walls we erect?

CROSSWORD

Go out and proclaim God's name

Nm 11:25-29
Ps 66:1-3ab, 4-5, 16 & 20, R. v.1
Jas 5:1-6
Mk 9:38-41



Across

- 3: Jesus was happy for people to perform these in his name
7: people who told others about the future
9: people who have a lot of money are _ _ _ _
10: the Lord came in a cloud and spoke to this man
11: you will be rewarded if you give someone a cup of this in Jesus' name
12: the word you are known by

Down

- 1: these people were friends and followers of Jesus
2: you do this when you are hungry
4: those given the _ _ _ _ _ were able to become prophets
5: people who work
6: you will be r _ _ _ _ _ if you do good works in Jesus' name
8: this man asked Jesus about the miracle worker

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

Go out and proclaim God's name

Nm 11:25-29
Ps 66:1-3ab, 4-5, 16 & 20, R. v.1
Jas 5:1-6
Mk 9:38-41

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

Try to find these words:

disciples
eat
John
miracles
Moses
name
prophets
rewarded
rich
Spirit
water
workers