



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 19TH DECEMBER 2021 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr Peter Thoai
Fr Matthew Muller
Fr John Vo
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
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)

Fourth Week of Advent, Year C

Monday—20th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—21st December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—22nd December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Tighes Hill

Thursday—23rd December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton—*CANCELLED

Friday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

5pm Sacred Heart Cathedral

5pm Mayfield West

5pm The Junction

5.30pm St Mary's

6.30pm Stockton

7pm Sacred Heart Cathedral

7pm The Junction (Broadmeadow Community)

10pm Sacred Heart Cathedral POLISH

Saturday 25 December (Christmas Day)

****No Novena 25/12 or 1/1/22**

Midnight Sacred Heart Cathedral

7.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral

7.30am St Mary's

8am Tighes Hill

9am The Junction

9am Stockton

9.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral

11am The Junction ITALIAN

11.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral POLISH

6pm Mayfield West VIETNAMESE

Sunday 26 December (Boxing Day)

7.30am St Mary's

8am Tighes Hill

9am The Junction

9am Mayfield West

9am Stockton

9.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral

11am The Junction ITALIAN

11.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral POLISH

5pm Sacred Heart Cathedral

6pm Mayfield West

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year C
1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24, Luke 2:41-52

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

Office Closure

Please be aware the Parish Office will be closed over Christmas and New Year from noon on **Friday 24th December till Tuesday 4th January**.

Phone calls and emails during this time will be answered ASAP upon our return in 2022.

Notices and Prayer Requests for the Sunday Bulletin for Sunday 26th December and Sunday 2nd January (both only available online) need to be to the Parish office no later than close of business **on WEDNESDAY 22nd December**.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm in Christ the King Church, Mayfield West. All welcome.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 6th February @ 6pm to discuss

Wild Abandon by Emily Bitto. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

I  Book Club

CHILDREN'S MISSION PARTNERS

Funds raised from July to Dec 2021 is \$810, making the total to date \$37500.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL GIFTS

After a challenging year, Caritas Australia is calling on Australians to renew their faith and commitment to helping those less fortunate by giving a gift that makes a real difference for those in need this Christmas.

Caritas Australia is offering a range of print and digital Global Gift cards that you can give to your family and friends. When you buy a Global Gift, your loved one receives a special card and you help raise much-needed funds for programs that provide essentials like food, water and education to people living in poverty.

To learn more or to purchase a Global Gift, visit: www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Vinnies (Newcastle Conference) Christmas Appeal continues this week. Envelopes are available through the various Parish Churches.

Christmas Cards and Calendars are now available at the Cathedral.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM FR ANDREW

Fr Andrew's letter concerning the future of our Parishes is now available on the website:

<https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/2021/12/09/pastoral-letter-future-challenges-and-directions/>
It is essential reading.

DIOCESAN ADVENT REFLECTION: WAITING WITH PURPOSE

In response to a request from the Synod Working Party, Pastoral Ministries has prepared an Advent resource for our diocese. It's called, **Waiting with Purpose**. In doing this we took note of the voice of the faithful heard in the Synod process expressing a longing for different forms of prayer that include faith sharing.

As we continue our Synodal journey an Advent resource, **Waiting with Purpose** has been created for our diocese. **Waiting with Purpose** responds to the voices heard during Synod reflections of longing for different forms of prayer that include faith sharing. **Waiting with Purpose** invites us to use Mystagogical Reflection as our way of encountering Christ in the Advent gospels. It invites us to focus on the presence of Christ in our experience and in the living tradition of our faith, to connect it to life now and to be changed by it. Mystagogical reflection meets us where we are. No preparation is needed. It's about being open to encountering Christ so we can live from Christ.

Waiting with Purpose and accompanying resources are available on the diocesan website: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>

Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Judith deCarvalho, Margaret Tuxworth, Michael Torpey

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Harry Hughes, Sr Clare Tobin rsj, Sr Mary Andrea Myers rsj, Eileen Olsen, Jack Bleakley, Kelvin O'Neill, James (Jim) Bridges, Marion Bridges, George & Mary Bridges, Maxie & George Bridges



SICK: Maree Halbert, Betty Stott, Carlo Rossi, Jon Hartley, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, Peter Skinner, Carmel Blair, Peter Keddie, Tomislav Kefcecek

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.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2022 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

A child's catholic faith journey began with the Sacrament of Baptism and continues by the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

The preparations for these sacraments in the Inner Newcastle Parish run between February and June of every year and is designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2022. Preparations are done as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Enrolments are now open for the 2022 program. If you are interested in being apart of the program next year please visit the parish website and complete the online enrolment form.

<https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramental-enrolment-form/>

For more information please contact the office on 49791101 or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

"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>

VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. Each Wednesday in December we will participate in the Diocesan's Advent program.

To participate, please email the Parish Office.

REFLECTION BY JOSEF WALKER

It is probably safe to say that we have all had the experience of eagerly anticipating some upcoming event in our life. We imagined how great it would be when “it” — whatever it was — finally happened or arrived. The closer we got to the actual day of the event, the more excited we became. You may have been waiting for the birth of a child, or graduation or a special vacation, or retirement. Or you may have been waiting to overcome some challenge in life such as counting down the appointments to the end of chemotherapy or the days of physical rehabilitation from a broken hip. In that case, you were eager to be healthy and be able to fully enjoy life again.

If you are like many people at this point in the season, you may be about ready to wrap up Advent and to unwrap Christmas presents. You are looking forward to a beautiful Christmas Eve Mass and eager to observe family traditions around the table or tree. Or if you are one of those folks who is just tired of Christmas music in the stores, well, hold on, your patience will soon be rewarded.

For many of us, our day-to-day experiences of anticipation do not offer much insight into the ancient Israelites waiting for the messiah. The magnitude and scale of their longing and expectation is beyond our comprehension. Generation after generation, they yearned for peace and harmony in their own land and with their neighbors. Age upon age, they prayed that God would send the shepherd that we heard Micah describe in our first reading. The prophet, like those before him, assured the people that “he shall be peace.”

To recall Israel’s history of faithful expectation helps us better appreciate the potency that Luke seeks to convey in today’s Gospel. In these few, brief lines, we hear that Israel’s long-awaited Savior and his herald are not only already in the womb but now are even under the same roof. Through the power of the Holy Spirit what might have been an unremarkable family visit on an ordinary day in a rural village becomes the intersection of two periods of human history. Elizabeth, with John the Baptist in her womb, embodies the former generations. She bears the prophet who will point the way to the promised one. Mary, with Jesus in her womb, embodies a new beginning. She bears the transforming fulfillment of Emmanuel — God with us.

Luke describes the meeting of these two women as being charged with excitement. Anticipation is palpable in every phrase. Mary travels “in haste.” John “leaped” in his mother’s womb. Elizabeth is “filled

with the Holy Spirit.” Then she exclaims to Mary, “Blessed are you who believed,” celebrating Mary’s faithfulness to God’s plan for humanity’s salvation which is unfolding right before their very eyes.

As we listen to this Gospel, we are swept up in the euphoria that was so evident in Elizabeth’s home. We can imagine how Luke’s first audiences must have delighted in this story. Jesus was the answer to their ancestors’ prayers. Through baptism, those early Christians were called and gifted to continue his mission bringing God’s peace and grace to the whole world. As are each of us.

We, too, are called and gifted to continue Jesus’ mission, which brings us back to these culminating moments of this Advent. This final Sunday of the season encourages us to discover those places in our own life and relationships where we can more fully experience — and express — God’s love. In a similar way, this short span of days is symbolic of those in our community and around the world who long to know the peace, hope and joy of Christmas. As Mary rushed to share her excitement with Elizabeth, let us as individuals, parish communities and as the universal church hurry to share Jesus’ love with those who are waiting and eager to know him.

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GOSPEL FOCUS

Blessed are you

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Elizabeth’s greeting to Mary forms the second portion of the traditional prayer, the Hail Mary. The first portion of the prayer also comes from Luke’s gospel and is the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. The final portion was framed by the Church. Use of the Hail Mary dates to about the 11th Century.

His people will live in peace

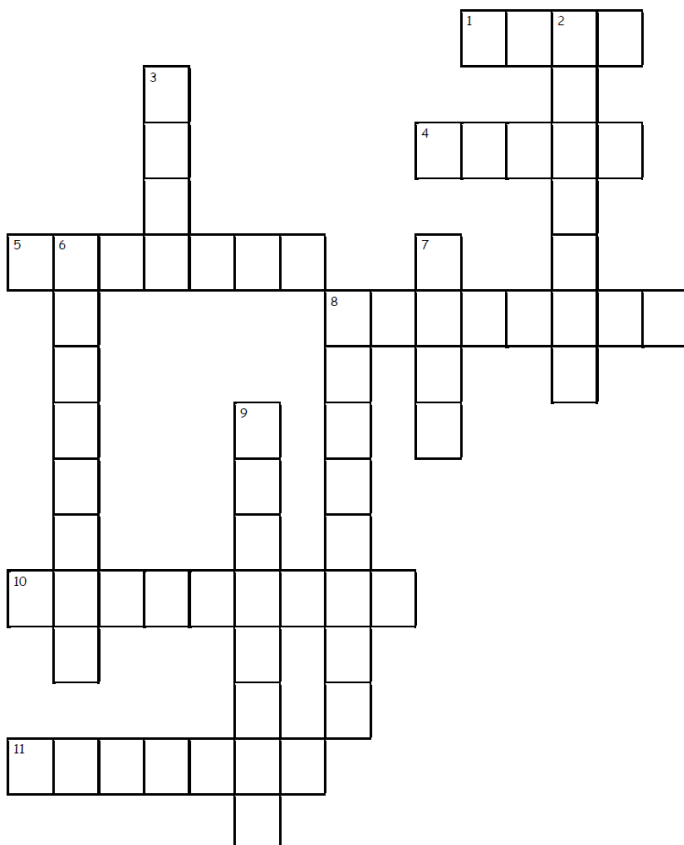
W J B U Y I M O A X D H M P A H H
M M Z Y X I U O U X R A O J B N F
A D U O R V V N U D N A Y R A E O
R L C S H E P H E R D B J D K A O
Y C B Y O X V T F Z A B E R T I D
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D U G Q U Q W M Y N E B O R N J N
L K R P T U A E X I A O E E A C L
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I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

Try to find these words:

abandon
ancient
baby
believed
Bethlehem
blessed
born
greeting
Mary
moved
shepherd
smallest

CROSSWORD

His people will live in peace



Across

- 1: an infant
4: shifted
5: to leave without caring
8: another word for littlest
10: the town where Jesus was born
11: very old

Down

- 2: to have been given a blessing
3: eggs are hatched, as babies are _ _ _ _
6: to have accepted the truth
7: the mother of Jesus
8: one who looks after sheep
9: saying "Hello" or "Hi"

PRACTICE THE PAUSE!

Pause before judging. Pause before assuming. Pause before accusing. Pause whenever you're about to react harshly and you'll avoid doing and saying things you'll later regret.

Lori Deschene

FAITH MATTERS | SHARE YOUR STORY

Each fortnight Faith Matters aims to explore individuals and communities rich experience of their faith.

We invite you to share your faith story.

Everyone has a story.

No matter how ordinary yours may seem, we all have a story to tell and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it.

You could use the following questions as a guide.

- Who are the people who guided your faith journey? How did they do that?
- Describe some defining moments of your faith journey? What made them significant?
- How has your faith been reflected in your work, your hobbies, your values, your choices, and your priorities at various times in your life?
- In what ways has your faith guided and supported you over your lifetime? How has your church/fait community guided and supported you?

We hope to use the stories as part of a Faith Matters.

For more information or if you would like to be interviewed, please contact

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au or send your story to shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au.

AN ADVENT PRAYER

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of God.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: in the world, in my home, in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joyful response to God's joy. Help me to serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord.

REFLECTION BY RICHARD LEONARD

The visitation is one of the moving scenes in the Gospel. On a human level, here are two cousins, unexpectedly pregnant in the most extraordinary circumstances, meeting and offering each other greetings and support. We can see the scene and feel the bond.

In the Gospel of Luke this moment is pivotal. These women meet in the mountains where God has always been manifest to the Israelites. Elizabeth is the Old Covenant made to Israel and she carries John who will be the herald of the Messiah. Mary, literally, embodies the new, and final, covenant in Jesus.

Elizabeth recognises what is happening here and she embraces all that God is doing for the world. She has tasted the promise of God and now sees its fulfilment.

On a more mundane level, however, a meeting like this would have occasioned much comment and speculation from those outside the inner circle. We only have to imagine it happening today in any small suburb or country town for us to appreciate the human scale of the unfolding drama.

The Iona Community has explored the unwritten history in their story of Mmes Matthew, Mark and Luke, 'The village gossips'.

Narrator: In any small village, news travels quickly. Therefore it is only to be expected that the strange changes in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth might have been food for other people's thought.

Mrs Matthew: Well, ladies, you know how I'm not one for gossip, but wait until you hear this. You know that old woman Elizabeth, with the man who has not spoken for nine months.

Mrs Mark: Yes, what about them?

Mrs Matthew: They say she's had a little boy.

Mrs Luke: At her age? She's 88 if she's a day!

Mrs Matthew: Well, that's what I heard and it was on very good authority!

Mrs Luke: Are you sure you've got the right woman? You're not mixing her up with her cousin?

Mrs Mark: Who? Mary?

Mrs Luke: That's her! Now, I'm not one for talking about anybody but wait until I tell you this. She's pregnant!

Mrs Mark: Never! How do you know?

Mrs Luke: You can tell. You can just tell.

Please note regarding the Novena

On **Saturdays, 25th December and 1st January**, (Christmas and New Year), there will be **no Saturday Mass/Novena** at the Cathedral.

Mrs Matthew: Oh yes, you can tell all right. I heard her in the store last week asking for a dress eight sizes too big for her.

Mrs Luke: There you are. Draw your own conclusions. Now, I know that this will not go any further, but I hear that she and a certain young man are planning to leave the district.

Mrs Matthew: Who is the young man?

Mrs Luke: The joiner's boy, Joseph.

Mrs Mark: Never!

Mrs Luke: Well, that's what they say and I'm not one for gossip.

Mrs Mark: So, have you heard what they're saying about the so-called census?

Mrs Matthew: No. Tell us.

Mrs Mark: Well, I happened to hear that the reason the Romans want our names is not to send us birthday cards.

Mrs Luke: Well, why are they having a census?

Mrs Mark: To register us for a 'poll tax'.

Mrs Matthew: I heard it was a 'community charge'.

Mrs Mark: 'A rose by any other name.'

Mrs Luke: They wouldn't do that, would they?

Mrs Mark: Well I'm just warning you. Mind, I'm not one for gossip.

Mrs Luke: Nor me.

Mrs Matthew: Nor me.

The story of the visitation keeps the rumour going that just when we think we can figure God out, predict how God will enter our lives and our world, he does something none of us can imagine. And the best thing about this rumour is – it's true.

As we wait for Christmas to come again into our lives, let's make room for Jesus Christ who turns our expectations upside down and always gives the gossips plenty to talk about.

© 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.

"O ANTIPHONS" OF ADVENT

The "O Antiphons" are a series of seven antiphons beginning with "O", that are used in the octave (seven days) leading up to Christmas Eve, with a different antiphon proclaimed each day. They use ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. The hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel is based on the O Antiphons.

On the last days of Advent, you may wish to add these "O Antiphons" to your evening prayer, your prayer at table, or your bedtime prayer.

DECEMBER 17 O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

DECEMBER 18 O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

DECEMBER 19 O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

DECEMBER 20 O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

DECEMBER 21 O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

DECEMBER 22 O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

DECEMBER 23 O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!



TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Mi 5:1-4

*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule
over Israel.*

Responsorial Psalm (R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Heb 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with
a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, savior of the world for by your cross and
resurrection, you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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& Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

THE CHUCKLE



What did the third wise man say after his friends had
already presented gold and frankincense? "But wait,
there's *myrrh*!"

LIVING & GOSPEL

Looking for signs

*When Mary went to visit Elizabeth
she was not looking for a sign that
she had made the right decision.
Rather, because she had accepted
God's will the sign was given to her.
Her acceptance and action came first.
The sign came later as a confirmation.
At times we look to God to provide us
with a sign that our impending action
is the right choice. However, faith acts
in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait
around for a green light from God.
When we do act in faith, the flow-on
effects are the sign of confirmation.*

THE IRISH LANGUAGE – GAEILGE!

Are you interested in speaking Irish? I am of Irish
ancestry, speak a little of the language of my ancestors
(Níl agam ach beagáinín Gaeilge) – (Phonetic: Neel
UGGum och byagerneen Gwalegger) – 'I have (speak)
only a little Irish'.

Are you Irish born and a native speaker, have Irish
relatives who may or may not speak their native
tongue? Or, have no links to Ireland at all but still have
an interest in learning Irish?

All are welcome!

Many people believe that the Irish language is
exceedingly difficult to learn but – Níl fál go spéir é
(Phonetic: Neel fall go spareh a) – 'It's not a hedge as
high as the sky!' Not impossible and can be great fun.

For further information, please contact Seán Ó
Áirchinneach. Please leave a message on Mobile: 0424
140262 or email me: seanoairchinneach@gmail.com

