



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 DECEMBER 2021 2ND 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*)
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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.



Advent is a time of waiting, but it is not an uneventful time. 'Prepare the way of the Lord' says John the Baptist: the hills will be levelled, the valleys filled in and the roads straightened and smoothed. John speaks as if this smoothing process could happen in an instant; but time is relative when we are talking about the actions of the creator God. While the world has been waiting for its fulfilment in the end times, the processes of smoothing have been happening for millennia in places like the Australian desert. The landscape pictured here – near Coober Pedy – is worn down by millennia of weathering. It is difficult for humans to imagine the vast time spans that God uses to shape this environment, but the season of Advent acknowledges all time – past, present, and future – as the time of Redemption

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)

Second Week of Advent, Year C

Monday—6th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—7th December

Memorial of St Ambrose

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—8th December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Tighes Hill

Thursday—9th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton—CANCELLED *

Friday—10th December

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11:00am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11:00am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—11th December

9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ St Joseph's **

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—12th December

Third Sunday of Advent

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed via the Cathedral website:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/>

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

* PLEASE NOTE: Weekday Masses in Stockton are CANCELLED during Fr Peter's leave (8/11—15/12) Weekday Mass on WEDNESDAY ONLY is going to be celebrated by Fr Max Davis in Mayfield West, NO Mass on Fridays. (during Peter T's absence).

With a new liturgical year comes new opportunities. As St Laurence O'Toole remains unsafe for public entry, last weekend we commenced a **VIGIL MASS at 5.30pm in St Josephs. All are welcome.



NEWCASTLE TUDOR SINGERS CONCERT

Join us for a Christmas Concert on Sunday December 12 @ 2:30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Come along to hear (and sing) carols new and known, directed by Anne Millard with organist Peter Guy, pianist Marcia Wall, featuring performances by Patricia Woods and the Hunter Handbell Ringers. Tickets \$15 and \$10.

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, 5th December @ 6pm to discuss *The Man Who Died Twice* by Richard Osman. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcp parish@mn.catholic.org.au

I ♥
Book Club

CARITAS NEWS

The latest CaritasNews, Spring 2021, is now available at www.caritas.org.au/media/3pxmj2pc/caritasnews_spring-2021_digital_updated-rm.pdf

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE (CFC) 2022

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity? Expressions of Interest are now open for the Christian Formation Course 2022

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units.

Commencing on Tuesday February 1, 2022, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a Diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

Expression of Interest close December 10. For more information go to:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sun Advent, Year C

Zep 3:14-18, Ps— Is 12:2-6, Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18

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

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. It's deeply personal and communal.

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

MULTICULTURAL CHOIR CONCERT

Sadly, the Multicultural Choir Concert will not go ahead this year due to Covid restrictions. Let's hope 2022 will provide an opportunity for this wonderful evening to occur!

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Maureen Callen, Anne Hargreaves (UK), Marea Orman

ANNIVERSARIES: Elizabeth Harvey, Joe Timbs, Paul Mather

SICK: 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>

MEMORIAL MASS

The Croatian community will celebrate a Memorial Mass for Fr Petar Mak on Sunday 5th December. Fr Petar died during 'lockdown'. Please remember Fr Petar in your prayers, for his long & dedicated ministry within Newcastle's Croatian Community.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF ADVENT

by Mary M. McGlone

"The word of God came to John ... in the desert." That is what Luke said to introduce the prophet who would prepare the way of the Lord. According to Luke, John's ministry was the pivotal point in salvation history; the new and final era was coming into being.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, unless we live in an area such as the Southwest U.S., the desert is probably about as far from our imaginations as a herd of camels. Luke wants us to think about the desert and why John was there instead of protesting around the palace or preaching in the Temple.

The desert was Israel's birthplace. God brought the people out of slavery and then led them on a 40-year desert trek to teach them what it meant to be the people of God. They needed that time to get over their servile identity. They lived those 40 years without the distractions of building homes and businesses; that long experience of being on the move taught them to rely on God alone. When they forgot the lessons of the desert, God sent them into exile for 60 years. In both instances, hardship stripped them of everything so that they could figure out what was essential.

We see something similar in the lives of people who suffer. A cancer diagnosis can force people to clarify the purpose of their life. An unexpected death reminds us that relationships are more important than any activity or achievement. A fire or flood often leaves people with a new sense of the relative value of their belongings. An accident often leaves us thinking about how we might have prevented it. All of the above adjust our vision in ways we probably never would have chosen.

So now in December, while everyone jingles with excitement for the holidays, the church invites us into the desert with John. The desert is the antithesis of the shops. No matter how much money you have, there is nothing to buy. Far from the city lights whose twinkling grabs our attention, the desert allows us to fix our gaze on the stars, on beauty that is beyond our reach and yet seems to have been created just for our delight. The desert is where our soul finds room to expand, where we can remember what we really thirst for.

There are other deserts as well where the poor wander, seeking something better as they bet their lives on a chance for peace and safety. There are

deserts of loneliness in the midst of bustling cities. The internet allows us to contemplate the desert refugee camps where people spend hours waiting in line for water and years waiting for a welcome to a new homeland.

Today these deserts have been created by the selfishness of human sin and those who suffer in these deserts are not usually the guilty. The promise of today's readings, the promise of Christmas itself, is made for the people in these deserts.

The word of the Lord came to John in the desert and today he tells us to prepare the way of the Lord.

To prepare the way of the Lord today, we must straighten out the tortured paths that truncate our sisters' and brothers' hopes as they flee for their lives, seeking a safe haven. We are called to straighten out twisted communications with words of truth and sincere compassion, even for our adversaries.

To prepare the way of the Lord today, we need to muster the courage necessary to enter the valleys of depression and desperation that trap our brothers and sisters in loneliness and fear. In our personal relationships, we are called to build bridges across the breaches that have separated us from family or friends, to forget old wounds and bend low enough to say "I am sorry."

There is a lot of geography to cover if we wish to prepare the way of the Lord. But it is all possible because God is already working on it.

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Living gospel

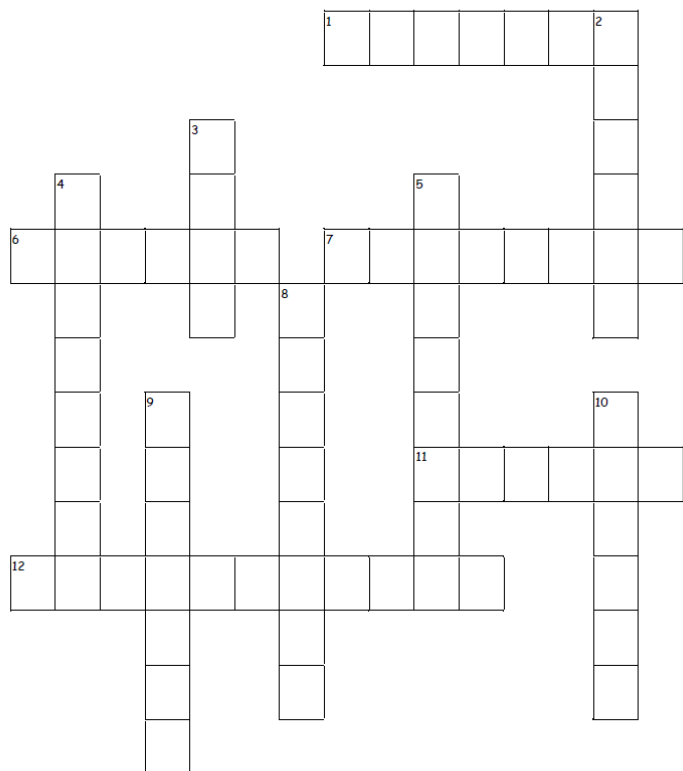
Make way!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

CROSSWORD

Prepare the way of the Lord

Bar 5:1-5,7
Ps 126:1-2ab, 2cde-3 R.v.3
Phil 1:4-6
Lk 3:1a, 2-6



Across

- 1: special messages for God
6: the feeling of sadness
7: speaking in a loud voice
11: the low land between hills
12: to be having a party or a special event

Down

- 2: rescuing
3: the opposite of bad
4: to finish a task
5: Jesus lets our sins be -----
8: a very high land mass
9: the ruler of an empire
10: a barren land

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

Prepare the way of the Lord

Bar 5:1-5,7
Ps 126:1-2ab, 2cde-3 R.v.3
Phil 1:4-6
Lk 3:1a, 2-6

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

Try to find these words:

celebrating
complete
desert

emperor
forgiven
good
mountain
prayers
saving
shouting
sorrow
valley

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

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)

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 Stockton
9.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral
11am The Junction ITALIAN
11.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral POLISH
5pm Sacred Heart Cathedral
6pm Mayfield West

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. In today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

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/faith 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.

Living the gospel

Make way!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

ADVENT

We're on our yearly Advent journey on the road to Christmas. On that road we encounter **John the Baptist**; indeed we can't by-pass him! He is a fiery figure calling us to examine our lives and repent.

The antithesis to the Christmas frenzy of December, John stands in the middle of the road to Christmas **shouting** *'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths'* ‘

John calls us to make a U Turn!, to

- open our eyes to the needs of others
- discover the presence of God in our lives
- open our heart to the true beauty of Advent days

The sobering note of Christmas - in the midst of celebrating the coming of Christ, who came to make us free - are those who 'hate' or 'detest' Christmas. Perhaps because they have no family to rejoice with. How can we make a difference? We can't escape John the Baptist. As a Church we need to prepare the way of the Lord for all people.

During Advent we have different sights and sounds in our liturgy and worship space.

► **Pregnant Mary:** Mary is heavily pregnant with anticipation of the birth of Jesus. We journey with her, and allow Mary to fully reveal to us the dignity and potential of our discipleship.

► **The Music of Advent** reflects our expectations. It is neither the penitential song of Lent nor the joyful song of Christmas. The sound of the music for Advent attempts to provide a sense of beauty and profound longing and a joy-filled faith that expects fulfilment.

► The Colour for Advent

is not the colour of Lent. In Advent the dark blue of the winter sky in Europe is replaced in the southern hemisphere by the colour of the Jacaranda, our "native" colour of Advent.



THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent begins the Church's liturgical year. It encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a wonderful time to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Lord on Christmas.

The use of an Advent wreath is a longstanding Catholic tradition, originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages.

The wreath, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink (or rose), which symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle". The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

This fourth candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

It has become popular to include a white candle, placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Although churches sometimes use the Advent wreath, the devotion is ideally designed for home use.



TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled
with joy.

Second Reading: Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

*Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day
of Christ.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your
resurrection, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday
& Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Vinnies (Newcastle Conference) Christmas Appeal
starts this Sunday December 5. Envelopes will be
available through the various Parish Churches.
Christmas Cards and Calendars are now available at
the Cathedral.

OUR ROADMAP TO RE-OPENING CHURCHES

PHASE TWO: Now 80% are fully vaccinated the
churches are reopened for public liturgies with
“mixed congregations” (i.e. to the fully vaccinated,
the partially vaccinated, and the as yet unvaccinated).
Many of the restrictions we are currently familiar with
will continue. The 4sqm rule is applicable, and the
wearing of masks indoors is required. There will be a
need to observe physical distancing, practice hand
sanitising, and provide good ventilation in our
churches. Congregational singing is not be permitted,
though a small choir of ten are allowed to sing. We
will not be required to check the vaccination status of
people attending our churches. Those who are
especially vulnerable, or who are vaccinated but
anxious about mixing with the unvaccinated, or who
are unvaccinated and do not want to risk contact with
others, will be free to remain at home; live-streaming
of Masses from Sacred Heart Cathedral and other
parishes will continue. We will take all reasonable
steps to protect those who choose to gather in our
churches.

PHASE THREE: When 90% are fully vaccinated
(estimated date of 15 December) – “The New
Normal” The NSW Government has advised that from
1 December, there will be no difference between
COVID safety requirements for all NSW citizens,
whether fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated or
unvaccinated.

From December 15 everyone will be able to sing at
Mass. There will be no restrictions on the number of
people allowed in churches. Although you will still
have to use the QR code to enter, you will not need to
book your seat for Christmas Mass.

Alleluia!

