



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 DECEMBER 2021

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, 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

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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)

Octave of Christmas, Year C

Monday—27th December

Feast of St John

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—28th December

Feast of The Holy Innocents

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—29th December

5th Day in the Octave of the Nativity

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Tighes Hill

Thursday—30th December

6th Day in the Octave of the Nativity

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton—*CANCELLED

Friday—31st December

7th Day in the Octave of the Nativity

NO MASSES, NO SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 1st January

Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

9.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

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

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 26th December

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

The Epiphany of the Lord, Year C

Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

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.

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

Living the gospel

Importance of family

It is sometimes easy to glibly declare that our families are important to us, but it is in the everyday living of family life that we have the opportunity to demonstrate how serious we are. It is inevitable, as we establish our individual identity, that we will at times clash with our family's expectations and challenge the authority of parents. However, we can never forget the love, care and security our family has provided throughout our lives. Parents try to protect their children from disappointment and harm and reflect the love of God when they're repeatedly prepared to try again with damaged family relationships.

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.



Have you thought? Mary

We're told in today's gospel that Mary 'stored up all these things in her heart'. Mary is a model of the reflective life. When extraordinary, life-altering events occur to her, she is portrayed as pondering these events in her heart. She responds to these events by allowing them to speak to her and speak to her heart rather than simply 'reacting' as so many of us do. The ability to reflect on events, rather than react to them, can lead to a much better considered response and less chance of making the same mistakes over and over again.

Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Barry Alcock,

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Mary Ethel Sattler. Eliza O'Dae, Mary-Lou Alexander, Sylvia Fitzpatrick, Victor & Winifreda Fernando, Francis & Delicia Fernando, Ashoka Jayanthi, Hugo Perera,



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

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 resumes in February.

To participate, please email the Parish Office.

REFLECTION

Richard Leonard SJ

Christian art has not served us very well in terms of picturing the Holy Family. From medieval times, Joseph is portrayed as being as least 80, Mary is very young with perfect white skin and, usually, Jesus has golden curls and a knowing smile.

Now I don't know about your family, but among my clan no one is a canonised saint, immaculately conceived or the son of God. Let's face it, the Holy Family is a tough act to follow!

We know only the barest facts about the Holy Family.

Joseph was 18 or 19 when his fiancé, Mary, who was 14 or 15, potentially caused great scandal in the neighbourhood by conceiving a child, by the power of God, before the wedding. They were a poor, devoutly Jewish family from Galilee. They were as olive-skinned as any Lebanese is today and they lived in a country harshly administered by the occupying Roman Army.

The scriptures tell us they knew what it was like to be refugees, to lose their child for three days and that Mary so misunderstood what Jesus was on about that once she went to bring him home; later she watched him tortured and executed by the Romans.

By these traditions the Holy Family has much to say to those in our world who are teenage mothers, are poor, hard working religious people, are refugees or are so-called 'coloured' people. They give consolation to parents who can't work out their children, to children who feel their parents are not on their wavelink, and to anyone of you who has ever lost a child in a market place or been through the heartbreak of losing a child in death.

You see, the more we put halos on the Holy Family, sadly, the less we seem to be able to connect their family experience with our own.

Most families are about being generous, loving, stable and faithful. They stand for security, roots and identity. Our world needs stable, strong families more than ever before.

Families, however, also fight, can be envious, they break up, are under pressure from all sorts of social forces and, tragically, the family home is the most common place for physical and sexual abuse in our society.

For all our western wealth and technology I think it's very hard to have a happy and balanced family life today.

So what's the secret?

Family studies surveys tell us that forgiveness is the key. This flies in the face of the film *Love Story*'s outrageous motto, 'Love means not having to say you're sorry'.

As Christians, precisely the opposite is the case. Love means you can and want to say you're sorry and that the other person in the family can, and wants, to forgive.

But if my experience is anything to go by, 'I'm sorry' is second only to 'I love you' as the hardest statement to say and hear, in family life.

When I was 16 I read the works of Jesuit Fr John Powell who wrote, 'We should never leave this world not having told the people that we love that we love them.' Now, I don't come from a particularly demonstrative family. So I took John Powell's line as a personal challenge.

I wrote to my sister, who was then working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and to my brother who was working interstate, telling them that I loved them.

That left my mother. I stayed home one Saturday night and with my heart pumping and my tummy churning I approached my mother after tea while she was watching the news. 'Mum, I have something important to tell you', I began. My mother, not taking her eyes from the screen, casually said, 'Oh yes, what's that?' 'Mum', I responded, 'I've never told you this before.'

And now I could tell there was a duet of hearts pumping and tummies churning.

I plucked up all my courage and came straight out with it. 'Mum, I just want to tell you that I love you.'

And such was her relief that my mother replied 'I hope so' and promptly turned back to the TV.

My brother and sister wrote to Mum asking what was wrong with me. They all concluded it was a phase I was going through.

In our complex world, no one can pretend that forgiveness is easy or that it is a magic wand we wave over deep hurts and harsh words. True forgiveness does not deny reality, it deals with it. But forgiveness is necessary if we are going to follow Jesus. It is also necessary if we want to enjoy a happier family life. Revenge and spite, so endemic in society, are the antithesis of what Jesus taught and lived out.

May this feast of the Holy Family, then, give our families the 'serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference'.

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JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord's Promise Came True

Sir 3:2-6
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, R. see v.1
Col 3:12-17
Mt 2:13-16, 19-23

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

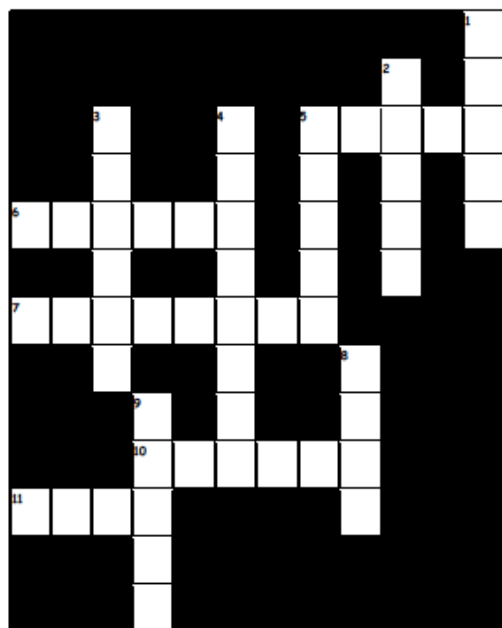
Try to find these words:

answered
dream
Egypt
Herod
hurry
instruct
praise
psalms
return
sins
wife
wrong

CROSSWORD

The Lord's Promise Came True

Sir 3:2-6
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, R. see v.1
Col 3:12-17
Mt 2:13-16, 19-23



Across

- 5: rush
- 6: sacred songs and poems in the old Testament
- 7: replied
- 10: to go back
- 11: a husband's partner

Down

- 1: the angel told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to this place
- 2: incorrect
- 3: to speak highly of
- 4: teach
- 5: this king wanted to harm Jesus
- 8: bad deeds
- 9: the angel appeared to Joseph in a _ _ _ _ _

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.

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



ANGELUS FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

From a homily by Pope Francis:

On the first page of the calendar of the New Year that the Lord gives us, the Church puts as stupendous miniature the liturgical solemnity of Mary Most Holy, Mother of God. On this first day of the solar year, let us fix our gaze on her, to resume, under her maternal protection, the journey along the paths of time.

Today's Gospel (cf. Lk 2: 16-21) takes us back to the stable of Bethlehem. The shepherds arrive in haste and find Mary, Joseph, and the Child, and repeat the announcement given to them by the Angels, namely, that that Newborn is the Saviour. They are all astonished, while "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (v. 19). The Virgin makes us understand how the event of Christmas is to be received: not superficially but in the heart. She indicates the true way to receive God's gift: to keep it in the heart and ponder it. It is an invitation addressed to each one of us to pray, contemplating and enjoying this gift that is Jesus Himself.

It is through Mary that the Son of God assumes bodily form. However, Mary's maternity is not reduced to this: thanks to her faith, she is the first disciple of Jesus and this "expands" her maternity. It was Mary's faith brought about the first miraculous "sign" at Cana, which contributed to inspiring the faith of the disciples. Mary is present with the same faith at the foot of the cross, and receives as a son the Apostle John. And, finally, after the Resurrection, she becomes the praying Mother of the Church, on which the Holy Spirit descends powerfully on the Day of Pentecost.

As a Mother, Mary performs a very special function: she puts herself between her Son Jesus and men in the reality of their privations, indigence, and sufferings. Mary intercedes, as at Cana, aware that, as Mother, she can, rather, must make present to her Son the needs of men, especially the weakest and most disadvantaged. Indeed, it is to these people that World Day of Peace, which we celebrate today, is dedicated: "Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace" is the motto of this Day. Once again, I wish to make myself the voice of these brothers and sisters of ours, who invoke for their future a prospect of peace. For this peace, which is a right for all people, many are prepared to risk their life in a journey that is in most cases long and dangerous; they are willing to face toils and sufferings (cf. Message for World Day of Peace 2018, 1).

Please, let us not extinguish the hope in their heart; let us not suffocate their expectations of peace! It is important that, on the part of all — civil institutions, educational, welfare, and ecclesial realities, there is the commitment to ensure to refugees, to migrants and to all a future of peace. May the Lord grant us to work in this New Year with generosity, with generosity, to bring about a more fraternal and hospitable world. I invite you to pray for this, while together with you I entrust to Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, the year that has just begun. The old Russian monks, mystics, said that in times of spiritual turbulence it is necessary to shelter under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God. Thinking of the many turbulences of today, and especially of migrants and refugees, let us pray as they taught us to pray: "We seek refuge under your protection, Holy Mother of God: do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and Blessed Virgin.

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