



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 30 JANUARY 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr Peter Thoai
Fr Matthew Muller
Fr John Vo

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
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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.



This week's gospel is a continuation from last week. Jesus is in his home town and proclaims his mission through Scripture. This is deemed presumptuous by the townsfolk who try to run him out of town. There is rage and violence in this scene – why did they react so violently? Jesus is appropriating scripture and giving it new meaning – a postmodern approach. New meanings are always resisted because they disturb the status quo, but Jesus' message, about the advent of the kingdom, also demands a change of heart.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

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 in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—31st January

Memorial of St John Bosco

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—1st February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—2nd February

Feast of The Presentation in the Temple

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

Thursday—3rd February

Memorial of St Blaise

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—4th February

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @
The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—5th February

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

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—6th February

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Word of God Sunday

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 *

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (*Italian*)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (*Polish*)

3:00pm Devotions to Divine Mercy Christ the King
Church, Mayfield West. All welcome.

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

* *Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—
www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Is 6:1-8

1 Cor 15:1-11

Lk 5:1-11

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

GRATEFUL THANKS

The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to send a very big thank you to our generous parishioners from the Hamilton and Tighes Hill parishes for their Christmas donations which raised a total of \$14,227. This enabled our conference to help many low income families, and your generosity was very much appreciated by them.



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 a part of the program this 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

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Joseph Benton, Michelle Callen.



ANNIVERSARIES: Caitlin Potts, Danny McLean

SICK: Maree Halbert, Carlo Rossi, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, Peter Skinner, Carmel Blair, Peter Keddle

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.

CANTEEN SUPERVISOR

Holy Family Primary School at Merewether Beach are currently advertising for a Canteen Supervisor for one day a week with the possibility of increasing these hours for special events at the school that require hospitality. If this is something that may be of interest to you, you can view the advertisement at <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/careers/positions-vacant/job/?id=11894>

or email your interest to the Principal, Ann Jackson, at ann.jackson1@mn.catholic.edu.au The starting date has been extended until Term 2 - 26th April.

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

View, Chew, and Chat returns in February. All meetings are online via Zoom. All welcome to participate regularly or occasionally.

Our regular schedule for the year is as follows:

Week 1: no meeting

Week 2: Bible Study

Weeks 3 and 4: Lectio Divina

In February, our first meeting on the 9th will be devoted to the Word of God materials.

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.

MEMORIAL OF ST BLAISE

Thursday is the feast day of St. Blaise, the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.

Many people commemorate the feast of St. Blaise by offering a blessing of the throat. The blessing states: *Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you (me) from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen*

The blessing is usually prayed while holding crossed candles at the throat.

THE CHUCKLE

We all know about Murphy's Law: anything that can go wrong will go wrong. But have you heard of Cole's Law? It's thinly sliced cabbage.

Scriptural context

Salvation for all

Luke is written for a predominantly non-Jewish (gentile) Christian community. Although it had been resolved that one did not have to become a Jew to become a Christian there was still a lingering doubt about preference being given to the Jews. The gospel writer goes to great lengths to reassure his audience community that the message of Jesus was for all people – gentile and Jew alike. This week's gospel is one of many passages that feature gentile people receiving God's acceptance and favour. It's a clear message that the salvation promised by Jesus is available to all who seek it.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 6, 2022



SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

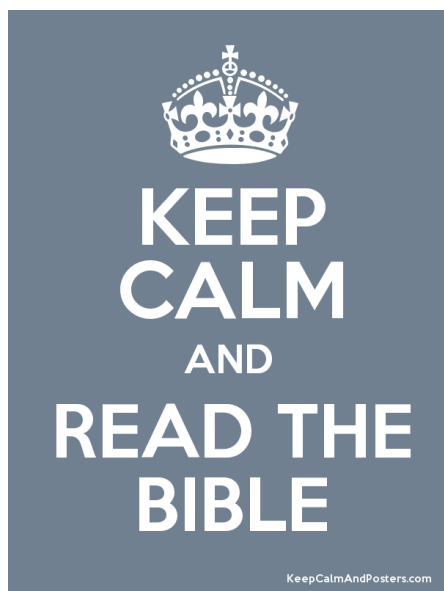
On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God.

Pope Francis instituted the celebration last year when issuing the apostolic letter *Aperuit Illis*.

The Australian bishops, in light of the regular coincidence of the Australia Day holiday or associated long weekend with the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, decided to choose another date to mark the occasion. Consequently, the Church in Australia will celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February each year, which is February 6 in 2022 (next Sunday).

Pope Francis launched an appeal to all the faithful to keep the Sacred Scriptures close at all times and to read them frequently.

Let us pray so that more Catholics would get to read, know, listen, and live the Word of God, so indispensable in our relationship with our Lord, through the guidance of the Sacred Tradition and the Church Magisterium.



Source: <https://poster.keepcalmandposters.com/>

GET INVOLVED!

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The City Pastoral Region offers three ways to be involved with the Sunday of the Word of God. Choose one or all of these options:

First, through an octave of readings :

- Is 40:6-8: "The word of our God stands forever."
- Jer 1:4-6: "The word of the Lord came to me."
- Jn 1:6-9, 14: "And the Word became flesh."
- Jn 17:17-19: "Your word is truth."
- Acts 6:6-7: "The word of God continued to spread." 3
- Col 3:12-16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you."
- Heb 4:12-13: "The word of God is living and effective."
- Jas 1:19-22: "Be doers of the word."

Second, participate in View, Chew, and Chat's special gathering online on Wednesday, February 9 @7pm

Third, by sending in your favourite Bible verse. If you sent in your favourite last year, maybe send your second favourite this year! To do so, please email it to the office newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

These verses will be compiled in a PowerPoint presentation, which will screen before and after Masses next Sunday. The list of verses will also be published in the bulletin. Hopefully you'll be inspired to read those verses, thereby taking up Pope Francis's challenge to read at least three to four verses of the Bible every day.

Thanks for taking part!

POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY (2019)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Sunday the liturgy proposed to us the episode of the Synagogue of Nazareth, where Jesus reads a passage from the prophet Isaiah and in the end reveals that those words are fulfilled “today”, in Him. Jesus presents himself as the one on whom the Spirit of the Lord has rested, the Holy Spirit who consecrated him and sent him to carry out the mission of salvation for the benefit of humanity. Today’s Gospel is the continuation of that narrative and shows us the astonishment of his fellow citizens in seeing that someone from their country, “Joseph’s son” (v. 22), claims to be the Christ, the Father’s envoy. Jesus, with his ability to penetrate minds and hearts, immediately understands how his fellow countrymen think. They believe that, since he is one of them, he must demonstrate his strange “claim” by working miracles there, in Nazareth, as he did in neighbouring countries (cf. v. 23). But Jesus does not want and cannot accept this logic, because it does not correspond to God’s plan: God wants faith, they want miracles, signs; God wants to save everyone, and they want a Messiah for their own benefit. And to explain the logic of God, Jesus gives the example of two great ancient prophets: Elijah and Elisha, whom God had sent to heal and save non-Hebrew people, and other peoples, but who had trusted in his word. Faced with this invitation to open their hearts to the gratuitousness and universality of salvation, the citizens of Nazareth rebelled, and even assumed an aggressive attitude, which degenerated to the point that “they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill [...], that they might throw him down” (v. 29). The initial admiration turned into aggression, a rebellion against him.

And this Gospel passage shows us that Jesus’ public ministry begins with a rejection and with a death threat, paradoxically precisely on the part of his fellow citizens. Jesus, in living the mission entrusted to him by the Father, knows well that he must face fatigue, rejection, persecution and defeat. A price that, yesterday as today, authentic prophecy is called to pay. The harsh rejection, however, does not discourage Jesus, nor does it stop the journey and the fruitfulness of his prophetic action. He goes ahead on his way (cf. v. 30), trusting in the Father’s love. Today too, the world needs to see prophets in the Lord’s disciples, that is, people who are courageous and persevere in responding to the Christian vocation. People who follow the “drive” of the Holy Spirit, who sends them to proclaim hope and salvation to the

poor and the excluded; people who follow the logic of faith and not of miraculism; people dedicated to the service of all, without privileges and exclusion. In short: people who are ready to welcome the Father’s will within them and undertake to witness to it faithfully to others.

Let us return to the synagogue. Surely that day, in the synagogue of Nazareth, Mary, his Mother, was also there. We can imagine her heart beating, a small foreboding of what she will suffer under the Cross, seeing Jesus, there in the synagogue, first admired, then challenged, then insulted, threatened with death. In her heart, filled with faith, she kept everything. May she help us to convert from a god of miracles to the miracle of God, who is Jesus Christ.

PRAY FOR TONGA

Tonga is reeling after a violent underwater volcano eruption triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications and blanketed the country in ash and rock.

Roads, bridges and homes are damaged. Water supplies have been contaminated by volcanic ash and saltwater.

Tonga needs your support urgently. Give now to help with emergency response.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific or call 1800 024413 toll free to donate.

PRAYER FOR TONGA AND THE PACIFIC

Loving God,
We hold before you in our hearts
The people of Tonga in this time of need.
We know that the communities of the Pacific often experience fragility.
Now, with a volcanic explosion leading to both a
Tsunami
And degradation of land and water through ash,
We ask that your people find strength and feel closer to you than ever.
They are communities of great faith.
May they turn to you for peace and reassurance.
May they turn to each other for comfort and community.
And may they turn to us for support and solidarity.
We all share this mysterious world
Which you have entrusted to our care, as one family.
May your Holy Spirit give us wisdom and courage
And fill us with the gift of Hope.
Amen.

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The power of the Lord will make you strong

Jer 1:4-5, 17ab, 18-19
Ps 71:1-2, 3abcd, 5a R.(see 15ab)
1 Cor 13:4-8a, 11-13
Lk 4:20b-24, 28-30

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

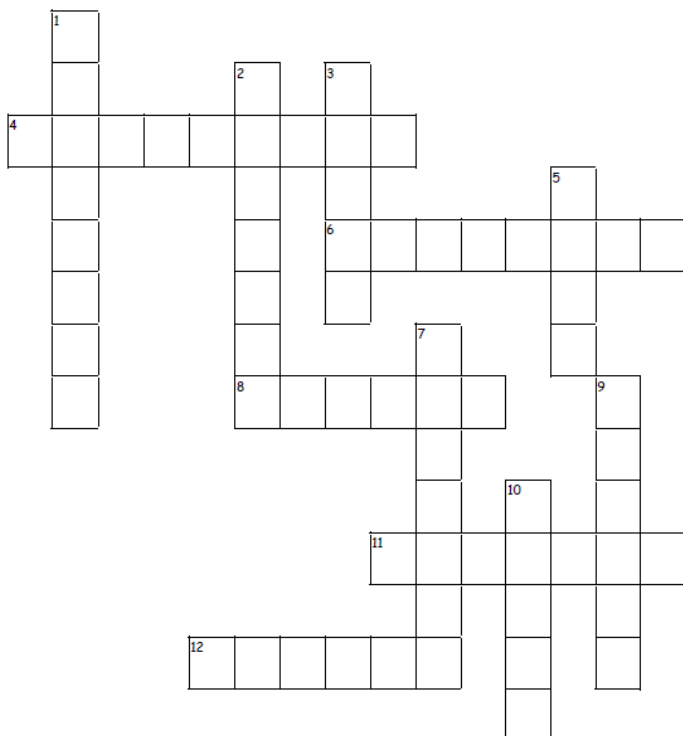
Try to find these words:

amazed
bronze
childish
command
doctor
dragged
life
liked
patient
prophets
quick
wonderful

CROSSWORD

The power of the Lord will make you strong

Jer 1:4-5, 17ab, 18-19
Ps 71:1-2, 3abcd, 5a R.(see 15ab)
1 Cor 13:4-8a, 11-13
Lk 4:20b-24, 28-30



Across

- 4: extraordinary, great
6: like a child
8: someone who cures sick people
11: to quietly endure is to be _____
12: very surprised

Down

- 1: people who speak on behalf of God
2: pulled, towed
3: fast, rapid
5: the opposite of death
7: an instruction or order
9: a brown metal
10: to have found something agreeable

REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard

At the end of today's Gospel we hear how Jesus' hometown crowd were so outraged by his words that they wanted to throw him off a cliff. How things have changed! These days many young adults tie a rope around their ankles and willingly hurl themselves from any precipice available!

It seems that some young people enjoy the challenge of facing down their fears, trusting the generally good track record of those who have done it before them and publicly showing their courage, even to the brink of death. Those of us not courageous or stupid enough to attempt a bungee jump have to concede that to do it, for whatever reason, is heroic stuff.

Heroic stuff is at the heart of today's readings. Even though the crowd hated what they heard, Jesus preached boldly to his own people. Jeremiah was similarly courageous in his teaching, in the face of enormous persecution from his people. And Paul knows the only reason one can endure hardships and rejection and even be seen as stupid in the eyes of the world is for the sake of love.

The word 'love' has to be one of the most misused words in our language. We say we love our house, holiday, car, and even ice cream. But using love in this way we scarcely come close to what Christian love is all about.

St Paul teaches today that love is not primarily about warm fuzzy feelings and violins. Paul knew that Christian love is an intensely practical business. There is no point in any of us saying we love anyone unless our actions follow the profession we make.

Indeed as St John was to sharply say in his letter in the New Testament, 'If you say you love God and hate your neighbour, you are a liar'. We can say the right words about loving God and each other all we like, but if we do not show it in how we live, then we are noisy gongs and clanging cymbals.

There is no getting around it: Christian love always and everywhere involves sacrifice.

So, how can we love like this? Why should we love like this?

We can love sacrificially because other people have loved us in the same way. When anyone has been gentle, kind and patient with us, when they did not insist on their own way, were not irritable, resentful or enjoy our downfall, we were on the receiving end of love. They showed us how to do it. That's love.

We can take this enormous gamble to love like this only when others have loved us enough to tell us the truth about ourselves and we in turn have spoken the truth to them. That's love.

And we can plunge into the unknown, even to the brink of death, because along with others we have held on to hope in the face of difficult times. That's sacrificial love and that is what Christian love is all about.

Jesus does not promise us in the Gospel that any of this is going to be easy, just necessary if we are going to live life to the full. And we also have legions of companions who have been down this road before us. From Jeremiah to Jesus to Paul to the martyrs and saints and to our own families, we know that it is possible to face down our fears, trust the track record of those who have done it before us, publicly show our courage, even to the brink of death and leap into the future with only three ropes tied to our ankles.

On one is written 'faith'. On the second is written 'hope' and on the third and strongest rope is written 'love'.

Let's pray in this Eucharist, then, for the grace to be foolish in the eyes of the world and heroic in the courage it takes to love others sacrificially, and be loved by them, even to the point of death.

© 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.

GOSPEL FOCUS

They were astonished

Jesus preaches the briefest of homilies, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen,' yet he wins the approval of all and the people were astonished by his gracious words! The reaction appears a bit overdone. However, the people knew the significance of the first part of the text Jesus quoted, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me.' They recognised that this language referred to the Messiah. When Jesus said that the text was being fulfilled as they listened he was laying claim to this status. Of course they were impressed!

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon Ps 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading Jer 1:4-5. 17-19

I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 70:1-6. 15. 17. R. v.15

(R.) I will sing of your salvation.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. (R.)
2. Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. (R.)
3. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help.
4. My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13

*There are three things that last: faith, hope and love;
and the greatest of these is love.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 4:21-30

Jesus, like Elijah and Elisha, was not sent only to the
Jews.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 30:17-18

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses,
and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion
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PASTORAL LETTER FROM FR ANDREW

Fr Andrew's letter concerning the future of our
Parishes has been available on the website for a few
weeks:

[https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/2021/12/09/
pastoral-letter-future-challenges-and-directions/](https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/2021/12/09/pastoral-letter-future-challenges-and-directions/)
You are encouraged (implored) to please send
feedback, which you can do in any one of three ways.

1. Via a dedicated email address for any feedback from
the Pastoral Letter CityRegionFeedback@outlook.com
2. Via a form on the Cathedral website, which will
automatically send to the above email address.
3. Communicate with members of the Pastoral Council
directly, either before or after Mass, or via their
contact information provided here:

Gail Lovell: Email: thelovells@bigpond.com
Mobile 0417210171

Janet Tully: Mobile 0435518671

Maureen Frize: Home 40237011 Mobile 0466681773
Email maureenfrize96@gmail.com

Alicia Jenkins: alicia.jenkins@mn.catholic.edu.au

Amanda Mohr: amanda.mohr@mn.catholic.edu.au

Mark De Souza: use the parish feedback email

THE FULL BULLETIN

The entire 8-page bulletin is available on the Parish website (use this QR code). If you would
like a paper copy of the full bulletin, please contact the Parish Office.

