



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 20 FEBRUARY 2022

SEVENTH 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

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
P: (02) 4979 1101 F: (02) 4962 4644
E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Maryanne Hewitt (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
(02) 4979 1116

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office



'Love your enemies' is one of the most challenging teachings of Jesus. It seems an impossible ideal, but Jesus gave us a practical example in the way he faced the terror of the cross. The problem is that living this way is inherently risky – especially when violence and terrorism occur and revenge seems a more efficient solution than reconciliation. Reaching out in love is clearly the radical Christian way, however.

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)

Seventh Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—21st February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—22nd February

Feast of the Chair of St Peter

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—23rd February

Memorial of St Polycarp

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

Thursday—24th February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—25th February

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—26th 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—27th February

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

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*)

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

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

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

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 6th March @ 6pm to discuss
Devotion by Hannah Kent. If you would like
to participate in book club meetings,
please email
newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

I ❤️
Book Club

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/](https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramental-enrolment-form/)

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

PRIDE MASS

Our Diocese is hosting a Pride Mass for LGBTIQ people
and their families, friends and supporters.

Time: 6.00PM

Date: Friday, 4 March 2022

Location: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16 Tighes
Terrace, Tighes Hill

For more information, contact:

LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Chris Delaney

ANNIVERSARIES: Goran Ivanovic, Gwen Jago,
Raymond Whitten, Clare Peters

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

*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.*



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Sir 27:4-7

Speech shows state of mind.

1 Cor 15:54-58

Death has no victory

Lk 6:39-45

Take the plank from your eye.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

You are invited to participate in World Day of Prayer Service to be held at Uniting Church, Cnr. King and Mitchell Streets, Stockton, Friday 4th MARCH, at 10.00am. The focus of this year's service is England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Please come and join us and bring a plate to share for morning tea following the service.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Have you taken up Pope Francis' invitation to participate in a global conversation about the Catholic Church? You still have three weeks to make a submission to your local consultation for the international Synod on Synodality, calling the People of God to walk together in our mission as Christians. Submissions close on February 27. Find out more at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>

Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, will resume on Wednesday 23rd February at 7.30am and Friday 25th at 11.00am. All are welcome, including new meditators, but you will need to be at least double-vaccinated and you must wear a mask. Hand sanitizing is still required. Wednesday is usually a small group and would suit those who do not wish to go into crowds.

The Monday evening group is not resuming, but a meditation group is available on Tuesdays at 6.00pm at St Philip's Church, Vista Parade, Kotara.

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

Meets Feb 23 for Lectio Divina. The schedule for the year is: Week 1 (no meeting); Week 2: Bible Study Weeks 3 and 4: Lectio Divina
All meetings are online via Zoom. All welcome to participate regularly or occasionally.

ART EXHIBITION:

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR

In the 2021-2022 Social Justice Statement Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, Pope Francis reminds us that encounter, dialogue, and listening with an open heart enable God's transforming love to move more powerfully in the world.

Artists are invited to create a work based on the themes found in the Social Justice Statement. Works can be 2 or 3 dimensional no larger than 1 x 1 metres.

Name, title of work, school, parish and phone number clearly labelled on the back. This information, plus a 150 word (maximum) artist statement, must accompany the work and be emailed before 29 April through to rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Delivered to Catholic Schools Office reception, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West 2302

Exhibition date: Saturday May 14

Location: TBA

Time: 2pm– 5pm

Categories Stage 3, Stage 4, Stage 5, Stage 6, Adult.
\$150 prize for the winning entry in each Category

CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY... BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD TOGETHER IN 2022: LENTEN REFLECTION

During Lent we are invited into prayer to renew and refocus our relationship with God, with ourselves and others, so we can fully celebrate the Paschal Mystery and live life to the full.

Continuing our synodal journey, you are invited to come together in parishes, schools and across the Diocese, both face-to-face and online, to remain connected during the season of Lent.

The resource provides the opportunity to encounter scripture and our synodal themes through the process of Mystagogical Reflection. As you encounter the mystery of God in the scripture, this will lead you to discover the mystery of God in one another through sharing of life and experience. This resource is available on the Diocesan website: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/len-2022

The Diocese will be hosting Mystagogical Reflections each week during Lent, Monday mornings at 10.30am and Thursday evenings at 6.30pm. To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129>

REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Imagine going to a foreign land and finding yourself amongst a people whose language you don't know, and whose customs you don't understand. You don't even know how to greet them, to eat with them politely, and so on.

And let us suppose that you had been born with a good ear for other languages, but had resolutely refused to cultivate it. You had spent your life in such a way that you never learned to speak that language.

Now, how unhappy you would be, how unfulfilled, how empty. Where you are might be a paradise, you might be surrounded by the most wonderful people, but there is no way you could share their life.

Some people say: 'Everyone will get to Heaven.' But I say: 'What would be the point for someone who could not speak the language, who couldn't live the life, who couldn't share the companionship of the other inhabitants?'

He or she might *be* there, but would be reduced to muttering to themselves, which would be hellishly miserable.

So, the task of life is to learn the language of heaven before we get there.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, challenges us to unlearn the language of the world – the everyday clichés and expectations and reactions, and to learn a language which is counter-cultural, paradoxical, perplexing.

'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.'

'To the man who slaps you on the cheek, present the other one too.'

'Lend without any hope of return.'

'Do not condemn.'

Etc, etc.

Are such attitudes and actions possible?

Our Lord is the best model, which is why we keep reading the Gospels.

Jesus *is* the language of Heaven spoken in a human life. Jesus *is* the Word of God in human history.

When men prepared to stone to death a woman taken in adultery, he refused to condemn her, and saved her life.

When others kept prostitutes and collaborators at a distance, he shared a meal with them.

When he was tortured and crucified, he cried out: 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do.'

That is embodying the language of Heaven.

That is the person with whom we have to be able to

talk at the moment of death.

When we become aware of language malpractice, i.e., sinning, and if we become *really* tongue-tied, i.e., seriously sinning, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and emerge articulate and conversant with Christ again.

We can talk with Our Lord again. We are singing the same tune.

Then, when at the moment of death we are on the borders of Heaven we won't be filled with trepidation as though we are entering a foreign land whose dialects and customs are so peculiar that we are utterly alone in the crowd – which is Hell.

Our intended destiny is not incommunicado, but comunicado, holy comunicado, holy conversation with God and with every creature.

If you want to be a conversation partner with God after death, practise the language of Heaven and 'walk the talk' every day.

© Fr Michael Tate

Different View

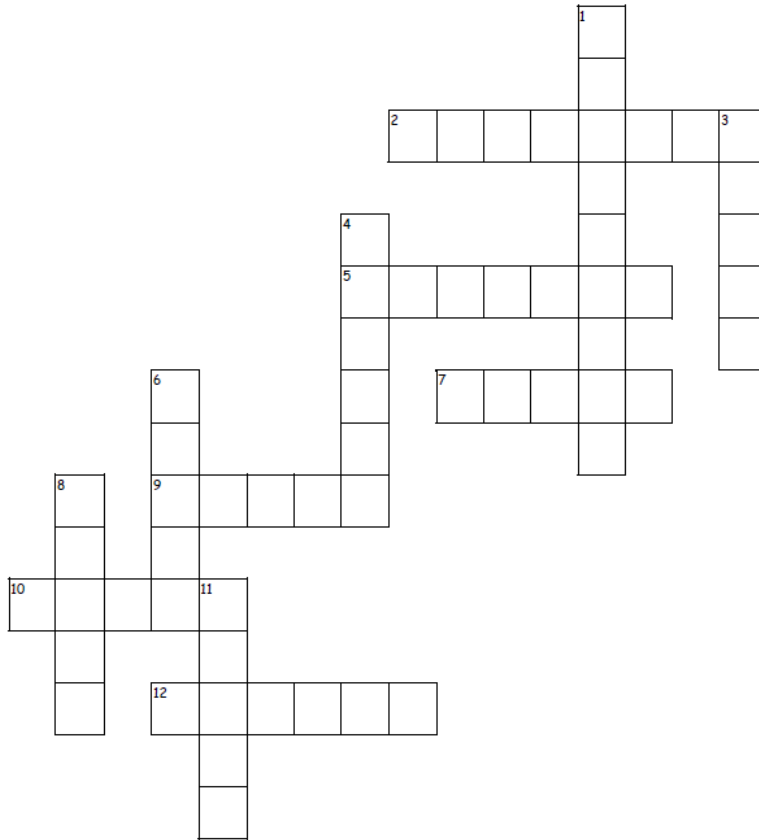
Turn the other cheek

Presenting your other cheek when someone has already struck you is usually seen as a pacifist action. However, a completely different interpretation can be made. If a man were to strike an inferior, it would be as a backhand strike – only equals fought with fists or open hands. Having been struck on one cheek with a backhand, offering the other cheek makes it impossible to again be struck with a backhand. The only option for the striker would be with an open hand – as equals fight. So, turning the other cheek can be interpreted as claiming your status as an equal.

CROSSWORD

The Lord is kind and merciful

Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Ps 103:1-2, 3, 13 R.v.8a
Lk 6:27-37



Across

- 2: people who fight battles
5: those who are against you
7: the side of your face
9: Jesus came from the line of this king
10: currency, cash
12: to penalise someone for an offence

Down

- 1: spoke softly
3: clothing worn over the upper body
4: a gift for good deeds
6: to assess someone's actions
8: a weapon used with a shield
11: the opposite of old

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C [N07ORSUC_2004_CW3.rtf]

© 2004 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord is kind and merciful

Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Ps 103:1-2, 3, 13 R.v.8a
Lk 6:27-37

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

Try to find these words:

cheek
David
enemies
judge
money
punish
reward
shirt
soldiers
sword
whispered
young

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C [N07ORSUC_2004_WS3.rtf]

© 2004 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

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.

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.

EILEEN O'CONNOR

A Celebration of Centenary of the Death of Servant of God and Co-Founder of Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor, Eileen O'Connor, will be part of the Sunday 9.30am Mass on 20th Feb in SHC.

It is a particularly appropriate day to honour and give thanks for the work of the 'Brown Sisters', who arrived in Newcastle 60 years ago, on 19th Feb 1962 and commenced ministry from their Merewether Beach convent. All those generous parishioners who supported the 'Brown Sisters' ministry for so many years are warmly invited to attend.

"AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR " 19

MARCH 2021- 26 JUNE 2022

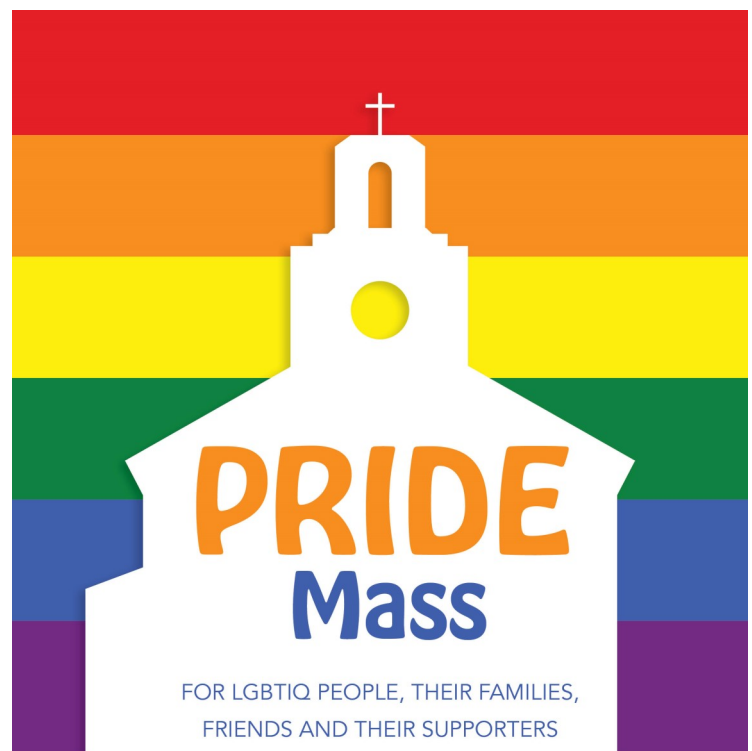
The "Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year" is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.

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>



FRIDAY 04th MARCH 2022
6.00PM

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH,
16 Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill

For more information contact: LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

HOMILY FROM POPE FRANCIS

This Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Lk 6:27-38) concerns a central point that characterizes Christian life: *love for enemies*. Jesus' words are clear: "I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you" (vv. 27-38). And this is not *optional*, it is a command. It is not for everyone, but for the disciples, whom Jesus calls "you that hear". He is well aware that loving enemies exceeds our possibilities, but this is why he became man: not to leave us as we are, but to transform us into men and women capable of a greater love, that of his Father and ours. This is the love that Jesus gives to those who 'hear him'. Thus it becomes possible! With him, thanks to his love, to his Spirit, we are able to love even those who do not love us, even those who do us harm.

In this way, Jesus wants God's love to triumph over hatred and rancour in every heart. The logic of love, which culminates in Christ's Cross, is a Christian's badge and induces us to meet everyone with the heart of brothers and sisters. But how is it possible to overcome human instinct and the worldly law of retaliation? Jesus provides the answer in the same Gospel passage: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (v. 36). Those who hear Jesus, who make an effort to follow him even at a cost, become children of God, and begin to truly resemble the Father who is in heaven. We become capable of things we never thought we could say or do, and of which we would have been rather ashamed, but which now give us joy and peace instead. We no longer need to be violent, with words and gestures: we discover that we are capable of tenderness and goodness; and we sense that all of this comes not from ourselves but from him! And thus we do not brag about it but are grateful for it.

There is nothing greater and more fruitful than love: it bestows all dignity to the person, while, on the contrary, hatred and vengeance decrease it, marring the beauty of the creature made in God's image.

This command, to respond to insult and wrongdoing with love, has created a new culture in the world: "a culture of mercy" — we need to learn this well! And properly practice this culture of mercy — which "can set in motion a real cultural revolution" (Apostolic Letter [*Misericordia et Misera*](#), 20). It is the revolution of love, in which the protagonists are the martyrs of all times. And Jesus assures us that our behaviour, inspired by love for those who do us harm, will not be

in vain. He tells us: "forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you" (vv. 37-38). This is beautiful. God will give us something beautiful if we are generous, merciful. We must forgive because God has forgiven us and always forgives us. If we do not forgive completely, we cannot expect to be forgiven completely. However, if our hearts are open to mercy, if we seal forgiveness with a brotherly embrace and secure the bonds of communion, we proclaim to the world that it is possible to overcome evil with good. At times it is easier for us to remember the harm they have done to us and not the good things; to the point that there are people who have this habit and it becomes a sickness. They are "collectors of injustice": they only remember the bad things done. And this is not a path. We must do the opposite, Jesus says. Remember the good things, and when someone comes with some gossip, and speaks ill of another, say: "Yes, perhaps ... but he has this good quality...". Turn the discussion around. This is the revolution of mercy.

May the Virgin Mary help us to let our heart be touched by this holy word of Jesus, burning like fire, that it may transform us and make us able to do good without reciprocation, *doing good without reciprocation*, witnessing everywhere to the victory of love.

THE CHUCKLE

I don't trust stairs.
They're always up to something.



All you need is love.
But a little chocolate
now and then
doesn't hurt.

Charles M. Schulz

coolfunnyquotes.com

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon Ps 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading 1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:45-49

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

Scriptural Context Compassion

The compassion of God is a very strong theme that runs through the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the gospel, the compassion and mercy of God is emphasised and a defining feature of the gospel is the number of healings and parables that relate to people who were regarded as the outcasts of society. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience first hand the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 6:27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Communion Antiphon Ps 9:2-3

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

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

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

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

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/>
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