



# 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 22 MAY 2022

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

#### Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell  
Fr Peter Thoai  
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](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
W: [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au)  
W: [www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au](http://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



Jesus offers the disciples wisdom and peace. Jesus stresses that this is not a peace that comes from everyday experience but something more: it comes from God. God's peace will enable the disciples to be untroubled and unafraid as they journey into the future without Jesus. God's peace will not make the disciples separate from everyday life, but singular within it.

Reflection by Dr Jenny Close

**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)

*Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C*

Monday—23rd May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—24th May

*Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians*

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8.30am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday—25th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—26th May

*Memorial of St Philip Nori*

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—27th May

9.00 am Mass @ Mayfield West

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—28th May

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

5:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

Sunday—29th May

*The Ascension of the Lord, Year C*

7.30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction—CANCELLED\*\*

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

5.30pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

\* *Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—  
[www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton](http://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton)*

\*\**Cancelled permanently*

## VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

The schedule for May is:

May 25: Lectio

May 31: No meeting

All meetings are online via Zoom. All welcome to participate regularly or occasionally.

## 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](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

## MYSTAGOGY MONDAY

Mystagogical reflection invites us into a personal encounter with Christ in the gospel we have heard, the liturgy we have celebrated, or an experience of life or ministry. It invites us to pay attention to what Christ reveals to us, both in that encounter and the living tradition of our faith and to connect it to life now. It invites us to dialogue and transformation.

Join us each Monday morning as we reveal the mystery of God found in the Sunday Gospel.

Commenced May 9 at 10am

To Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mystagogy-mondays-tickets-304319105637>

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Florence Mary Tobin, rsj  
Allan Ryan, Ms Plebiscita Pimentel Compton,  
Judge Lilia Lopez, Patricia Morgan, Patricia  
Mary Green, Mary Plenty



**ANNIVERSARIES:** Irene Licata, Francis Henry Smith, Neil Sattler, Ron Humphries, Maria Giustina Oddi, Mary Elizabeth Dwyer, Winifred Rose Fitzgerald, Doris Power, Maureen Dixon, Daniel Close, Anna Cesta, Joyce Winder.

**SICK:** Maree Halbert, Carlo Rossi, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Peter Skinner, Peter Keddie, Tiani Bishop, Jason Yu, Joel Samy, Tom Parker, Max Williamson, Sam and Margaret Broad

*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](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads).*

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Acts 1:1-11

Eph 1:17-23

Lk 24:46-53

## FROM THE MODERATOR

### Farewell Father John

On behalf of all our parishioners, volunteers, office staff, Fr Peter, Fr Matthew, Fr Bob and myself, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Fr John Vo for his wonderful service to the people of our City Pastoral Region. Fr John with his peaceful, humble and friendly manner will be greatly missed by us all. We wish him a safe and enjoyable holiday and every blessing in his new role in the Maitland Region of Parishes, and assure him of our ongoing prayers.



Fr John Lovell

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2022

Almost 70 children from our combined parishes will be confirmed on May 31 and June 1 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. A central component of their preparation is the completion of a "works of mercy" project, completed by the children and their families together. We invite parishioners to complete a spiritual work of mercy by praying for our children.

### BOOK CLUB

**Sunday, 6th June @ 6:15pm** to discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



### NEWCASTLE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Newcastle Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to the **GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT** Seminars/Workshops run by the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) Sisters on Saturday 21/5/22 and Saturday 28/5/22 10am-4pm at the Holy Cross Church Hall, 30 Oakland St Glendale. Cost: donation. Please contact Wayne Caruana on 0466 631394 for further information.

## FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN VO

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,  
I write to let you know that I will be leaving the City Pastoral Region on 22nd May to have my holidays in Vietnam for a couple of weeks and then take up a new ministry. I have been appointed as Assistant Priest to the Chisholm Pastoral Region. While I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead, I'm sad to be leaving the City Pastoral Region. It's very hard to say goodbye to someone we love and have a good time. The psalmist said: *"How good, how delightful it is for all to live together like brothers"* (Ps 133:1).

Indeed, God has called us together to live as brothers and sisters in unity for 16 months. It has been a pleasure and an honour serving all of you as Priest in *Solidum* but the time has come for me to move on to this new chapter of my journey. So I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you, the clergy, the Parish Council, Finance Council, our staff and volunteers and all the parishioners of the City Pastoral Region. Thank you very much for Everything you have been sharing with me during the last time, for helping me and supporting me in so many ways. Your support, love, kindness, prayers and example mean the world to me.

Please keep me in your prayers as I do in return for each of you.

I will miss you. Au revoir, I'll see you round like a rissole.

May God bless you always!

Fr John Vo

### NOTICE TO PLANNED GIVERS THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR IS COMING!

**Planned Giving Tax Receipts:** Parishioners who require a tax receipt for planned giving for the 2021/22 financial year must notify the Parish Office before 30th June 2022. Please notify by one of the following methods: **Email to [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au):** Use the wording, *"Please provide me with a Planned Giving tax receipt"* and include your name and envelope number.  
**Planned Giving Envelope:** Write on your weekly envelope, *"Tax receipt required"*.

Tax receipt data will be processed on 30 June 2022. No subsequent amendments are possible. Any requests received after 30 June 2022 will result in parishioners not receiving the requested tax deduction. If you do not require a tax receipt for tax purposes, it is preferable to refrain from requesting one as this will enhance the tax deductibility for those who do use the tax receipt. I am happy to provide people who do not submit a tax return with your contribution total.

# ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE IN THE SPIRIT OF TAIZÉ

**Venue:** Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill

**Date:** First Sunday each month starting June 5<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 5.00pm – 6pm *followed by a shared supper.*



*Da pacem cordium – Give peace to every heart (Taize chant),*  
[www.taize.fr/en](http://www.taize.fr/en)

Taize Songs taken from Ateliers et Presses de Taize WM Collins Publication Word of Life

*The cross icon which is at the centre of the devotional service is an adaption of the San Damiano cross of St. Francis of Assisi and is used at the Ecumenical Prayer Services conducted in Taize, France, and, anywhere else in the world where prayer services in the Spirit of Taize are conducted such as the one here. This cross icon, whatever its size or represented form as available, remains the focal point of every Taize Prayer service wherever it is held throughout the world. Taizé is a small village located in eastern France, near Lyon. The Taizé community founded in 1940 by Roger Louis Schutz-Marsauche (known as 'Brother Roger') is ecumenical with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The Taize movement remains resolutely ecumenical, bringing together people from all denominations and cultures.*

*“It is a sign of hope in a divided world...” Brother Roger*

*Prayer and silence are at the heart of the Taizé experience. We are encouraged to live out the Christian gospel in a spirit of joy, simplicity and reconciliation.*

*A cross, a Taizé adapted version of the San Damiano cross remains a focal point. The singing of repeated prayer chants during candlelit prayer services is one of its trademarks. Taizé music highlights simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of scripture, repeated or sung in canon. The repetition is designed to help meditation and prayer.*

*Note that there are some adjustments given the current context and where musicians and singers may not be available for the service to have the performance presented live as would normally happen. Professionally recorded music both instrumental and vocal are used instead.*

*If there are no technical glitches, this can be very effective in creating the right atmosphere of calm and receptivity. So we will be aiming for that. Adjustments in seating arrangements, room configuration and lighting can all happen as we develop the plans for the prayer service to work as best it can in the future.*

## **An Overview ...**

*Taizé services have been conducted here in Newcastle for many years. What is it all about?*

*"...the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought."*

*St. Paul to the Romans.*

Many symbols, some ritual, silence, and a lot of stillness. Prayer from the heart, music, readings, petitions, meditative, reflective atmosphere, a spiritual connectedness. Darkened shared space, candlelight and repetitive chants; harmonies, music, no celebrant, an order of service, shared supper and shared experiences.

*"One passes through Taizé as one passes close to a spring of water," Pope John Paul II*

*Taizé is a small village located in eastern France. The Taizé community founded in 1940 by Roger Schutz is ecumenical with a focus on peace and justice. Prayer and silence are at the heart of the Taizé experience.*

*"It is a sign of hope in a divided world and its spirituality has brought new life to Christian churches throughout the world." Brother Roger*

*We can contribute to peace by the life we live." Brother Roger*

***So what is it that draws people to this kind of service?***



***How do they answer my question of how does it make you feel?***

*The Taize Prayer service allows our heart and mind to be open to The Lord...*

*It is a way of worship which is meditative in a way that the usual form is not. It allows you time for your heart and mind to be open to the Lord for an extended time. The music really opened up a new way to pray. Candlelight creates a quietening of the heart.*

*It is the attraction of linking into chants in various languages to remind you that the Christian tradition, which we all share, is not only an ancient one going back 2,000 years which has influenced the course of western civilisation but also, manifests itself in various cultures.*

*It brings a connectedness to others worshipping in the same way throughout the world. Gives opportunity to participate with others in a meaningful, reflective way. It's non-passive with ritual, symbolism and participation.*

*The music really opened up a new way to pray.*

*I like its simplicity.*

*It's very spiritual.*

*I find it very peaceful.*



## REFLECTION

BY RICHARD LEONARD

Have you noticed how many books, films, television and radio programs harken back to yesteryear? 'Retrospectives' are huge in the art world. Have you noticed when musicians play more romantic classical music in the first half and contemporary music in the second half that people leave at half time? It seems the public likes the art of the 19th Century more than that of today. Nostalgia is big business and we cannot get enough of it.

Nostalgia literally means 'a yearning for home'. And if our artistic tastes reveal anything about who we are at present, maybe the home we yearn for is where things are clearer, roles are more defined, accepted harmony is developed and discord and dissonance is avoided – at least in public.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that as a result of our love for him and fidelity to his word, the Father will come and make a home with us. The image of God as homemaker is, sadly, not very developed in Christian spirituality, maybe because too many undomesticated men have had too much of the say for far too long! But this is an image that holds a lot for how and where we meet God.

The best homes are places where we relax because we are ourselves, we are known and we know the others with whom we live. It's a common experience, for example, that when we have been out from our homes, as soon as we enter our front door we want to go to the loo. There is something intimate and familiar about our home that enables us to relax on many levels as we turn the key. Home is an earthy place where we don't get away with much and our vulnerability can be on display. Christian homes are particularly hospitable places, where Christ dwells in them to the degree that dignity, love and forgiveness are present.

A home, however, is more than a house in which people live. Homes need work and attention. A friend of mine says memories rarely just happen, they need to be created. That's the sort of attention to a family's life that turns a house into a home.

And this is the world in which God enters our lives. God wants us to be relaxed and vulnerable in God's presence. We don't need to put on a show or say what we think God wants to hear, that's a theatre where we preform, not a home where we know each other. Easter faith is about being comfortable and intimate, about being who we are, rather than the persona we would prefer God to see.

As with most of our homes, being at home with God has its ups and downs, days when we think we cannot bear to stay one more moment, other days where we could never imagine being anywhere else and then most days where we are neither up nor down and we just get on with the routine of our lives. God the homemaker remains faithful through it all, offering the gift of Easter peace, sending us out to proclaim Christ's Kingdom, welcoming us home eager to learn how everything went and reassuring us always that while God is at home with us our hearts should never be troubled and we are not to be afraid.

For Christians, nostalgia is not about living in the past, it is about yearning for the sort of home where our heart truly is.

© 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.

## Different View

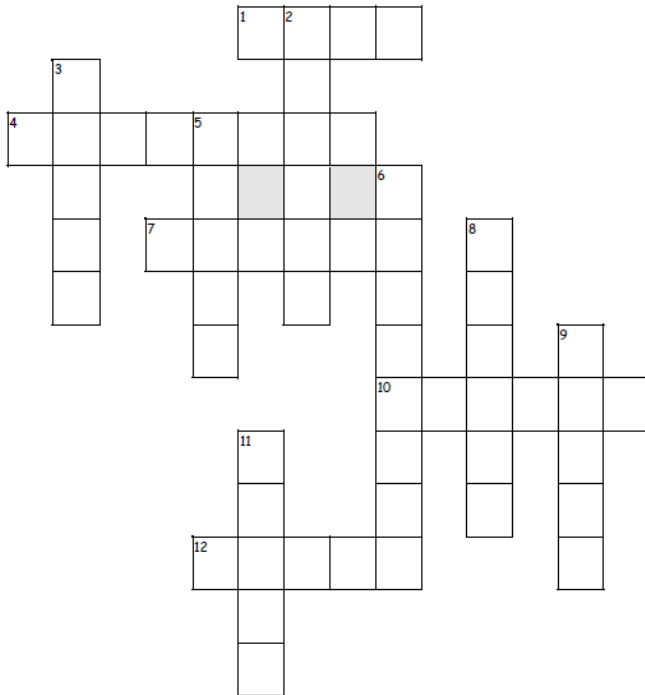
### Peace

*Jesus promises his peace to the disciples in today's gospel passage. However, some people argue that the world has not known that peace in the time since then. Some Jewish people cite this as one of their arguments against Jesus being regarded as the promised Messiah. One of the prophecies about the Messiah was that there would be universal peace once the Messiah arrived. Those who argue against Jesus as the Messiah point to the fact that since the time of Jesus, not a single day has gone by in our history in which there has not been some war or conflict occurring somewhere on earth.*

## CROSSWORD

### O God, Let all the nations praise you!

Rv 21:10-14, 22-23  
Ps 67:1-2, 4, 5 and 7 R.v.6a  
Jn 14:23-26



#### Across

- 1: follow orders
- 4: a very tall, large land mass
- 7: another word for dad
- 10: twelve tribes came from this place
- 12: doors along a fence or wall

#### Down

- 2: intense light, shining
- 3: the opposite of south
- 5: pass knowledge onto others
- 6: of great value, much loved
- 8: The Holy \_\_\_\_\_
- 9: to have listened
- 11: Jesus told his disciples, "the Father will send the Spirit to take my p\_\_\_\_\_".

## JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

### O God, Let all the nations praise you!

Rv 21:10-14, 22-23  
Ps 67:1-2, 4, 5 and 7 R.v.6a  
Jn 14:23-26

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

Try to find these words:

bright  
Father  
gates  
Israel  
heard  
mountain  
north  
obey  
place  
precious  
Spirit  
teach

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church?

The Christian Formation Course is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition in community. This course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units

All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith, grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey

- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community

- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community

- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community.

The course will commence in July 2022. For more information go to: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course)

## ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

The next Fridays in May - the Holy month of Our Lady Queen of the Rosary, we will be praying the rosary for the Ukrainian people starting at **9.50am** at St Joseph's Church, The Junction. All welcome.

## MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, on Wednesday at 7.30am and Friday 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.

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR A REGIONAL BEREAVEMENT TEAM

With the Regional Pastoral Council we have discerned the need for a Bereavement Team to serve the Catholic communities of our City Pastoral Region. A number of other regions in our diocese have Bereavement teams and they work very well. The main role of a Bereavement Team is to reach out to and accompany the loved ones of a recently deceased person to provide them with some pastoral support and assist them in the planning and preparation of a Catholic funeral liturgy (be it a Mass or a Liturgy of the Word), together with some follow-up as appropriate. Such a team will be an expression of our shared responsibility for mission and will be an opportunity to enrich this important ministry with the diversity of gifts that so many of you have.

We plan to conduct some information sessions so those interested can learn more about what could be involved and so help them discern if this is for them. Formation will be essential and will assist those who express interest to discern their call to this ministry. So, if you would like to learn more about this with a view to discerning a call to this ministry, please provided your contact details (see link below) and we will be contact with you.

<https://tinyurl.com/cityregion>

## THE BREAKFAST CONVERSATION (BYO BREAKFAST!!)

**All welcome, RSVP required**

*What?* **Melanie McKinnon**, a volunteer worker at **Upcycle Newcastle** will explain how donated goods and materials are upcycled: a *new beginning* for waste; *adding value*; and how they provide *inspiration, education*, and a space for people to *do their own stuff*.

*When?* **Monday 23rd<sup>th</sup> May** commencing at: **7.15am**  
*Where?* **Shed 7D, 50 Clyde Street, Hamilton North** – the seventh building on your left in the unnamed lane on the corner of Avis Rentals, opposite Newcastle Street.

*Why?* **Fellowship and information**

**Compliance** with Upcycle Newcastle **Covid-19 rules:**

- all* attendees must be at least **double-vaccinated**;
- number on site limited to fifteen (15).

RSVP to Neil Jones is essential:

[neil.jones@bigpond.com](mailto:neil.jones@bigpond.com) or 0410 572579