

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 29 May 2022 The Ascension of the Lord, Year C

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell Fr Peter Thoai

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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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

Parish Bulletin: Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

The story of the Ascension reminds me of that part of Einstein's work on relativity which has evolved into theories of black holes. The most fascinating thing about a black hole is that within it the laws of physics cease to apply. As a planet, for example, crosses over into a black



hole it passes through a *photon sphere* which is like a cloud of light surrounding the hole. Then it goes into the dark part of the hole beyond the *event horizon* and disappears *forever* entering a realm of *infinite gravity*. It eventually crashes into the dense body at the core of the hole which is called the *singularity*. Understand – no? Neither do I! The images that the words evoke are so tantalising that I find myself wanting to draw them. The language that Astronomers use when describing black holes is akin to poetry. What else can they do when the laws of their discipline no longer apply?

Luke had the same problem describing the Ascension: he writes that Jesus was 'lifted up ... and a cloud took him from their sight' and the disciples were left gawking at the sky. Did Jesus really 'go' anywhere? Where is heaven – is it really in the sky, or even 'up'? Surely Luke is bending language in order to express the inexpressible about the shift in the disciples' perception of Jesus in that strange (fourth dimensional) time between the passion and Pentecost. 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)

Seventh Week of Easter, Year C Monday—30th May 8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—31st May Feast of The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:15amMass @ The Cathedral

8.30am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday—1st June

Memorial of St Justin

- 8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West
- 2.00pm Funeral Mass for Mary Plenty @ St Mary's
- Thursday—2nd June
 - 8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
 8:30am Mass @ Stockton
 9.00am Memorial Mass for Daniel Close @ Mayfield West.

Friday—3rd June

Memorial of St Charles Lwanga and companions 9.00 am Mass @ Mayfield West

- 9.00 am Mass @ Mayneid West
- 9:50am Rosary for Ukraine@ The Junction
 - 10:15am Mass @ The Junction
 - 11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—4th June

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—5th June

Pentecost Sunday, Year C

7.30am	Mass @ St Mary's
8:00am	Mass @ Tighes Hill
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
5.30pm	Mass @ Mayfield West (Vietnamese)

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

** The 9:00am Mass @ The Junction is cancelled permanently

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

The schedule for May/June is: May 31: No meeting June 1: Bible study June 8, 15, & 22: Lectio 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: <u>https://mncatholic.zoom.us/i/61036103033</u> Password: pray For more information contact: 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: <u>https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/</u> mystagogy-mondays-tickets-304319105637

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Daniel Close, Brian Kelly, Lola O'Doherty, Timothy John Crooks, Sr Florence Tobin rsj, Sr Sarah Carpenter ocd, Mary Plenty

ANNIVERSARIES: Guy Hinks, Irene Licata, Eileen Russell, Ian McGuinness, Maria Giustina Oddi, Robert John Haggarty, Francis Henry Smith Annie Crittenden Sr Paula Crittend



Henry Smith, Annie Crittenden, Sr Paula Crittenden rsj, Clare Innes, Perce Jennings, Ralph Sweeney

SICK: Colin Bryant; Maureen Sunman, 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, Alma Royan (Germany), Bill Higgins, John Rumball, Aaron Parkes

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.

FROM THE MODERATOR

At 7 pm this coming Tuesday and Wednesday evening at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, around 70 children from our parishes will be receiving a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. It will



be a very special time for them, along with their sponsors and families, especially so close to Pentecost Sunday (5th June) when we celebrate the Holy Spirit being poured out on Our Lady and the Disciples in Jerusalem 2000 years ago, giving birth to the early Church. Please support these children with your prayers and if you can make it, please come along and support them with your presence. May I take this opportunity to particularly thank Dr Anne Milliard for her dedication and work in preparing these children. Thanks must also go to our office staff for preparing the certificates these children will receive and the updating of parish registers that will come afterwards, to Fr Greg Barker who will preside on Tuesday evening, to our MCs, music ministry and many others for their invaluable assistance.

May God bless you all, Fr John

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: 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.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Gen 11:1-9 Rom 8:22-27 Jn 7:37-39

THE ST LAURENCE O'TOOLE LUNCHEON

Monday 30 May @12.00pm, Venue South Leagues Club, Merewether. All welcome. Please see Gwen Haggerty (or call 4967 5010) if you'd like to join us.

FOOD BASKET FOR THE NEEDY

Items of dry goods or tin food e.g. (Vegemite, cornflakes or breakfast foods, sugar, packet or tin soup, sardines, tea, coffee, tin fruit etc but NOT PEANUT BUTTER), can be placed in the basket at the back of St Joseph's Church. St Vincent de Paul members will pick up for distribution to the needy who are very grateful to receive the items. When donating please check expiry dates.

THIS WILL START AGAIN NEXT WEEKEND. Thank you. Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523/4967 2998

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: <u>www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-</u>formation-course

DISCOVER THE DIOCESE'S NEW APP!

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's new app is available now! Mass times, news and events, and parish giving will be just a tap away.

As part of the new app, you are also able to select your Church and receive customised alerts. To view your latest Parish updates, simply scroll down the home page and click on the notices that interest you for more details.

You can download the app for free from the <u>Apple App</u> <u>Store</u> and <u>Google Play Store</u>. Just search for 'Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle' and click install on your mobile or tablet!

To learn more about the app, visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/mass-times-app

2022 TWEC DINNER

This year's dinner will be held Friday 24 June from 6.30pm at The Therry Centre, East Maitland. We invite you to enjoy a meal, share stories of the Josephite spirit within the diocesan community and imagine the next chapter of the Tenison Woods Education Community story together. Seats at the dinner are \$60 per person which includes drinks, canapés, main course and dessert. Tables of 10, small group and individual bookings are welcome. For details and bookings go to <u>https://2022twec.eventbrite.com.au</u>. Attendee names and dietary needs can be entered at checkout. For queries please contact Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 or <u>sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au</u>

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE IN THE SPIRIT OF TAIZĒ

Venue: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill Date: First Sunday each month starting June 5th, 2022 Time: 5.00pm – 6pm followed by a shared supper.

THE GLOBAL TABLE DINNER- NEWCASTLE.

Come and join a great group of people for dinner on Saturday 28th May 2022 at Adamstown Uniting Church, 6.00pm- 10pm.

The Global Table Collective brings people together around the table to share food, stories and recipes from diverse cultures. In purchasing this ticket, you are helping to support women from refugee backgrounds who are wanting to start their own business in hospitality.

There are still tickets left if you want to come and join the event. Click on the link below.

www.trybooking.com/events/landing/889465

World Meeting of Families Formation Events over June online 7.00pm-8.00pm

1 June- Belonging, Being and Becoming at St Nicholas
Presented by Caroline McGuinness (Trainer and Assessor, St Nicholas Pathways)

Participants will be introduced to the philosophy and framework that guide practice in St Nicholas education and care settings. We will explore how educators work with young children in their journey to belong, be and become.

8 June- Educating the whole child to support learning and wellbeing- Presented by Renee Tyczynski (Professional Officer [psychologist], Catholic Schools Office)

Learn about how Catholic schools support student wellbeing by ensuring a safe, supported, inclusive environment, where students are engaged in their learning, form positive relationships and develop skills for their future within a faith-based community.

15 June- Social connections and improving senior's wellbeing- Presented by Nicola Rosenthal (Regional Manager, Catholic Healthcare)

Join with us as we explore the importance of social connections, and five keyways seniors can improve their wellbeing. The presentation will also discuss mental illness, grief and loss in later life and which support services are best suited for older Australians.

20 June- Relationships Matter- Presented by Robyn Donnelly Marriage and Relationship Educator-Pastoral Ministries)

The session provides participants with an understanding of patterns of behaviours that drain our emotional bank accounts and can cause the relationship to go into meltdown or disconnection of the parties. Participants can reflect on 7 areas that create strong sound relationships starting at the foundations this includes research around rituals and shared meaning, so your relationship stays connected to get through areas of disagreements or conflict.

To register go to <u>www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-</u> <u>mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-</u> <u>events</u>



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE PRESENTS:

'How do we know Christ now?'

A free online conference (via zoom) will be held on Friday June 17 2022, 9.30am - 12.30pm with a variety of workshops. This conference will focus on the critical question: 'How do we know Christ now?' and explores how we know the same Christ more authentically and powerfully today.

Workshops (11.30am - 12.30pm)

- 1. 'Deep Incarnation' and Hope for the Transformation of the World led by Very Rev. Dr Kevin Lenehan
- 2. Profound Experiences as Encounter: Christian Spirituality for Today led by Dr Rina Madden
- 3. Exploring Mindfulness and Christian Contemplative Practices led by Dr Cullan Joyce
- God the Artist Communicates to Us First, Before God the Lecturer: A Workshop Uncovering the Presence of God in Art led by Rev. Dr Elio Capra SDB

Register <u>www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/</u> <u>catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events</u>

Catholic Theological College

Free online conference via Zoom "How do we know Christ now?" Celebrating 50 years of CTC

Friday 17 June 9.30am – 12.30pm For further information visit our website: <u>ctc.edu.au</u> Contact Dr Christopher Morris:

christopher.morris@ctc.edu.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: www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/ amoris-laetitia/iniziative-e-risorse/10-video-amorislaetitia.html



Luke-Acts

The two works of Luke and Acts, ascribed to the same writer, are both addressed to the same person, Theophilus. However, the Greek name, Theophilus, means 'Friend of God' or 'Beloved of God'. Theophilus may have been a particular person or may have been a literary device by the author – using the name to imply that the books were written to any 'Friend of God'. There is a common style employed in the writing of the two works and a common theology runs through both works and it is these commonalities that lead scholars to conclude that the two works share the same author.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

A female moving to Newcastle at the end of July to commence Paediatric training at John Hunter hospital is looking for self-contained accommodation. Please contact the office for more information.

Living #gospel

You will be my witnesses

Organisers of the twenty-third World Youth Day hosted by Sydney in 2008 took as its theme verse 8 of the passage from Acts 1 that is today's first reading: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses." The choice of this theme for a world-wide gathering of young people of faith is a significant reminder of the call of Jesus to go out to the ends of the earth and to bear witness to his message. These are the final words on earth attributed to Jesus and they echo to us through time.

REFLECTION by Richard Leonard SJ

A teacher told me recently that when she asked her grade fours to draw a picture of the Ascension, not unsurprisingly most of them did a fairly conventional portrait of Jesus rising up on a cloud. One of her students, David, who is a particularly gifted artist, had Jesus blasting off into the sky. Down the side of Jesus' pure white garment was the word NASA and David provided all the sound effects for how he imagined the scene of the first Ascension. He concluded, without a hint of irony, that, 'the Ascension must have been a real blast!'

None of us can blame David for marrying our modern culture with an ancient story. In fact if some of us are honest, David's 'space shuttle Jesus' is not far from what we think as well.

The Ascension stories, however, are not primarily interested in how or when Jesus got back to heaven. John and Paul never mention it at all. Mark and Matthew have it happening on the same day as the Resurrection and Luke has it occurring 40 days after Easter on the same day as Pentecost. The one thing, on which all the New Testament writers agree, is where in heaven Jesus went and where he is presently – at God's right hand.

Even to this day, being on someone's right is a place of honour. In the Old Testament being on the right hand of David, Samuel or Elijah was to be the anointed and favoured one, the true son or daughter. In telling us, then, that Jesus is now at God's right hand, the Gospels use a formal phrase to announce that God affirms everything Jesus said and did on earth and that he is the way for us to follow.

That can be all well and good, but Jesus goes one step further and that's why this feast is so important. Jesus taught us that where he is, so shall we be, that he was going to prepare a place for us and that, in and through him, we will have life and have it to the full.

The feast of the Ascension is the day, each year, where we remember and we celebrate that, just as Jesus was welcomed to God's right hand, so, too, shall we be welcomed to the right hand of Jesus. This is his promise, this is our faith and this is the hope we are called to proclaim to the world. And let's be clear about the invitation. There is nothing we have ever done, are doing, or will do, that will get our name removed from the invitation list to the feast of Christ's kingdom. The challenge is accepting that we have a standing invitation and living lives worthy of the love that places our name on the list. The feast of the Ascension announces that Jesus will faithfully accompany us no matter how far we lose our way and that by our fidelity to Christ we accept or reject the standing offer.

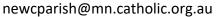
And because the Ascension is an Easter feast it develops even further that there is nowhere, bar evil, where God does not dwell. Because of the Resurrection and Ascension we can find God everywhere we want to: in our homes, our work, our suffering, our old age, our emotional, sexual or financial turmoil – and even in our death.

Even though the writers of the New Testament are not too clear on the details of how the Ascension happened, what we initially see in this wonderful feast is not what we get. Thanks be to God, it's so much more.

© Richard Leonard SJ

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





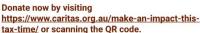
When Sita's husband passed away, she struggled to provide for her four children and was shunned by her community.

Sita lives in the Bagmati province in Nepal with her four children. Her wage as a labourer barely covered the cost of day-to-day expenses, and she feared she would be unable to further her children's education, leaving them vulnerable to the same poverty and discrimination she was experiencing.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Sita was able to join the Nepal Livelihoods and Resilience Program, run in partnership with Caritas Nepal. Over time, she began to develop the life-changing skills she needed to diversify her income, through the sale of milk and other goods, and gain financial independence.

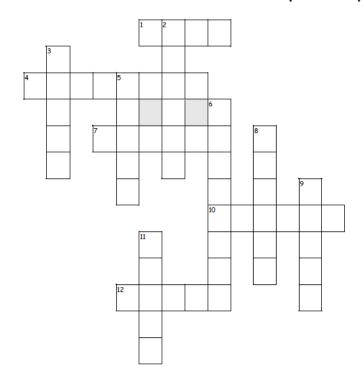
Sita can now produce enough food to feed her family, send all of her children to school, and has become a respected member of her community.

This tax time, you can support more people like Sita to gain the skills they need to triumph over discrimination and escape the cycle of poverty.





CROSSWORD O God, Let all the nations praise you!



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
- Jesus told his disciples, "the Father will send the Spirit to take my p____".

06th Sunday of Easter, Year C [N06EASUC_2004_CW3.rtf]

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JUNIOR WORDSEARCH O God, Let all the nations praise you!

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

Try to find these words:

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

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

- (R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
- All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.
- God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.
- God is king of all the earth.
 Sing praise with all your skill.
 God is king over the nations;
 God reigns on his holy throne.

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel:Lk 24:46-53

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Communion Antiphon:Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

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

Rosary For Ukraine

It has been decided that as the War in Ukraine is continuing, we should continue to pray the Rosary for the month of June. We will start at 9.50am on Fridays (before Friday Mass) at St Joseph's Church, The Junction. It is so wonderful that parishioners have supported this call to pray for World peace and all people are most welcome to attend!

