



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 14 AUGUST 2022

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 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*)
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.



We don't expect to hear difficult words from Jesus, as we do in today's Gospel. But it is good to be reminded once in a while that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds his followers to be prepared for difficult decisions that will bring them into conflict with those closest to them. (Loyola Press)

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)

Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—15th August

Solemnity of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

10:15am Mass @ St Josephs (School classes attending)

Tuesday—16th August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

11am Funeral Mass for Julie Malcolm @ Mayfield West

Wednesday—17th August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—18th August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—19th August

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West—CANCELLED

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—20th August

Memorial of St. Bernard

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—21st August

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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*) **
Cancelled until 11th September

3:00pm Divine Mercy Devotion @ Mayfield West.

5:00pm Taize Service @ Tighes Hill

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5.30pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

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

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

In Australia, the Catholic faithful should observe The Assumption (August 15 – the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) as a holy day of obligation: Mass will be celebrated at:
Sacred Heart Cathedral @ 8:15am
St Joseph's @ 10:15am and
St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton @ 5:30pm
Mayfield West @ 6.30pm (Vietnamese Community)
Attending Mass on Sunday evening @ 5pm counts for both Sunday and the Feast Day.

ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

Pray the Rosary from 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!



HOUSIE IS BACK!

Thursday and Saturday nights from 7:30 until 10 in the Southern Cross Hall. Ages 18+ are welcome.

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Julie Malcolm, Colin Crittenden

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Hogg, Frank & Mickie McNeil, Maree Martin, Peter Kozickys, Josie Bird, John Lawler, Janet Bryant, Irena Ivanovic

SICK: Ronnie Jennings, Eileen Howard, Eva Grant, 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

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.

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. Thank you
Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523/4967 2998

YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS

The Young Christian Students is an international Movement, present in over 80 countries, that empowers secondary school students to take action based on what they believe, in their student reality. YCS gives students the chance to be agents of change themselves. When students take ownership and responsibility it allows them to develop the skills needed to lead.

The Diocese is holding a training day for anyone who would like to get involved in the YCS movement on Friday 26 August. To register your interest please email formed@mn.catholic.org.au

CAN YOU HELP CATHOLICARE MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS AUGUST?

CatholicCare's Community Kitchens provide thousands of meals across the Hunter-Manning region each month and help people who have nowhere else to turn. However, these important services receive no government funding, so we rely on the generosity of the community. Please give a gift today to help us provide more meals to people in need. Your tax-deductible donation will go directly to our local food programs, ensuring no one is turned away and that everyone is welcomed with a hot meal and a smile. Go to <https://www.mycause.com.au/page/288431/make-a-difference> for more information or to donate.

WAITING WITH PURPOSE

As we continue our synodal journey we invite you to a period of waiting this Advent through connecting with each other in prayer and reflection. Our Diocesan Advent Reflection will be available from October 2022.

FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR RCIA AND SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION MINISTERS

Saturday 10 September, Morpeth, 10am to 3.30pm – Reflection Day 'Come rest a while' in appreciation of current and interested Christian Initiation ministers. Opportunity to listen, reflect and get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch provided. Details and registration at

come-rest-a-while.eventbrite.com.au.

Sundays September 18, 25; Oct 9, 16, 30; Nov 6, Newcastle West, 1pm to 4.30pm – Formation process 'Go make disciples' for new and experienced Christian Initiation ministers. Explore the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) over six Sunday afternoons. Details and registration at

go-make-disciples.eventbrite.com.au

Read more at tinyurl.com/4tyh82bd Enquiries to sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au or P 4979 1134.

MASS CELEBRATING DIVERSE LEARNING

Fr Greg Barker, the community of Catherine McAuley Catholic College, together with The Federation of P & F Associations and The Special Needs Working Party warmly welcome all to join with clergy, students, principals, teachers, school staff, families and parishioners for this special celebration. It's on Sunday 18 September from 2.30pm at Catherine McAuley Catholic College, 507 Medowie Road Medowie. An afternoon tea will be hosted after Mass, no RSVP is required. For more information please contact Catherine McAuley Catholic College on 4068 1000.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 4th September @ 6:15pm to discuss *The Mother* by Jane Caro. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office hours are 9.30am to 4pm; we are closed between 1 and 2pm for lunch.

Those who visit the office outside the new opening hours can leave written messages, forms, and paperwork in a secure wall-mounted box (at the front door), or communicate via email or a phone message.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Is 66:18-21

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Lk 13:22-30

THE CHUCKLE

A ham sandwich walks into a bar and orders a beer. The bartender says "sorry, we don't serve food here."



Jesus makes people choose sides

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

Try to find these words:

choose
disciples
divide
earth
father
fire
five
hard
mother
over
same
test

COMMENTARY
by Mary Coloe PBVM

Truth without compromise
Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

‘Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.’ Last week’s reading leads into this astounding affirmation. The story of Israel was meant to be a great sign of God’s fidelity so that this community, struggling at the end of the first century, could be assured that God was with them. We are at the beginning of a third millennium, and if we recall the many centuries of Christian faith, we too have a great crowd of witnesses supporting, encouraging and assuring us. Look around the Church today; everyone who is here celebrating this Eucharist is part of this cloud of witnesses. One Church I visited where this is beautifully displayed is the Cathedral in Los Angeles. Along both sides of the Church are tapestries depicting past and present people of faith: St Francis, St Joan, Mother Teresa, Oscar Romero, John XXIII. As one enters the Church he or she is enfolded into this community of faith.

The Letter reminds us, ‘Let us not lose sight of Jesus.’ No matter how much we struggle, no matter how dark the times are, our faith is focused on Jesus, risen and alive with God.

The harsh words of today’s Gospel are in keeping with Jesus’ message that the reign of God is breaking into the world. The imagery of fire comes from the trade of a metalworker who uses fire to burn away the impurities. In the context of this Gospel ‘fire’ refers to the future gift of the Spirit (Luke 3:16) which will be poured out on believers but only after Jesus’ death and Resurrection. For this reason, Jesus speaks with great urgency of the future events that await him in Jerusalem and he calls these events a ‘baptism’. As one who goes down into swirling waters, Jesus will be engulfed by events beyond his control when he reaches Jerusalem.

Jesus’ words about conflict and division speak of the reality experienced by Luke’s community. Some within Judaism did become followers of Jesus; others saw him as a false Messiah. By the late 80’s, when Luke is writing, Christianity and Judaism were beginning to separate and it is quite likely that households were split as parents and children took different paths. The community is also negotiating life within the Roman Empire where persecutions have already begun in Rome. Faith is not always comforting or comfortable, particularly if that faith is at odds with the surrounding

culture. Faith calls for real choices about how we live, what we buy, where we shop, whom we vote for, and such choices will cause conflicts with those who think differently.

For example, when preparing for an election it is worth considering if, in our pondering about who we might vote for, do we give any consideration to the Gospels and the many moral challenges that Jesus puts to those who want to be his followers? Jesus had lots to say about the poor, and the accumulation of wealth for one’s own needs; Jesus spoke about care of the neighbour, the outsider, the stranger; he spoke of generosity and justice, of forgiveness and making hard choices. Christian faith is not simply a matter of private pious practices but demands a public living out of the values of God’s reign. Our faith should offer some insight into the candidates we choose.

If we do look seriously at the Gospel values we may be faced with some hard choices about our lifestyle and our personal comfort. Can we do with less so that others might be simply able to live? Such disconcerting questions can be like ‘the fire’ that purifies. Like the metal in the hands of a master crafts-person, we need to be purified constantly until we ‘ring true’.

© Mary Coloe

Historical Context

Family ties

In the ancient world, and particularly in Jewish culture, family meant everything. One’s identity was completely tied up with family. Families absolutely depended on one another for survival and for personal identity. Young men were identified by who their father was. Women quite literally ‘belonged’ to their father or husband. The entire fabric of society and tradition was held together by extended families. For Jesus to say that his message would tear families apart was to say that all of society would be transformed by the message. The kingdom of God turns expectations and society on their head, breathing new life into tired, restrictive structures.

REFLECTION

In our desire to affirm that the scriptures are inspired, it can be easy to forget that they come out of the lived experience of a community of faith. Indeed, one of the things that is wonderful about our belief in God's revelation is that it occurs within human experience. Today's Gospel is an excellent example. Jesus predicts that one of the consequences of believing in him is that divisions will follow.

We can tell from the whole text of Luke's Gospel that these divisions were certainly a part of the earliest Christian community which wrote this book and that their faith in Christ led them to confront some very tough issues: how could Gentiles inherit the promises made to the Jews; why the rich members of the community had special responsibility to the poor; the centrality of forgiveness in the Christian life; and what leadership role women should have in the earliest Church. We know that fights over these issues and faith in Jesus as the Christ or the Messiah, divided families and villages, cities, nations and a religious tradition.

This gospel is both a stark reminder of the costs involved in following Jesus and a comfort to us in the church today. Sometimes we can domesticate the Christian community into a 'feel-good' society. Our religious words and actions, however, are always meant to have an edge; our faith should 'afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted'. If Christians at home, at work, in society and on the international stage just go along with what is trendy or current because we're frightened of conflict or because we want to be seen to be part of the crowd, then we are not worthy of this Gospel.

Sometimes when we hear Jesus use the metaphor of a blazing fire we can see a violent image, but I am not sure if it has to be exclusively interpreted this way. Fire is sometimes necessary and good to clear out the layers of undergrowth built up over time that smother the soil of a forest and prevent new growth. Fire is a beacon that gives guidance and attracts attention. A blazing fire can attract everyone to its light, warmth and power. So maybe this Gospel is a call to purge the weight of old growth that can stop fresh thinking. Maybe it gives guidance to us in the justice we are meant to live and the attention we must call to the needs of all God's children. And maybe it is a reminder that the life of our Christian community is meant to be attractive through its gentle power and warmth. If the price we pay for witnessing to any of these values is that we divide the crowd, so be it.

What's comforting about this gospel is that it recognises conflict as a necessary part of the Christian life. There are some who want to pretend that the followers of Jesus should never disagree with one another or with those outside the Church. Conflict in itself, Jesus teaches us today, is an element of our commitment to the kingdom of God. What marks out the way we should disagree with one another inside and outside the Church, however, is that it is conducted with charity, dignity, careful listening and compassion. Christians always look to put the best possible interpretation on the opinions of those with whom we disagree and to be reconciled to those we have hurt, to heal divisions where we can.

May this Eucharist give us the courage to divide the crowd for the right reasons. May we be a blazing fire that casts light on darkness where people are exploited and injustice smothers the growth Christ wants to see in the human family. No one promised us that Christian faith was ever going to be a picnic!

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OUR BELOVED DEAD

We remember those in our Sacred Heart Cathedral Columbarium whose anniversaries occur in August:

Betty Caelli
Lynda Corrigan
Joan Adele Daly
William (Jack) Everleigh
Aileen Gilbert
Nesta Haggerty
Kathleen Hart
Margaret Hogg
Harry Kilner
Leon Lakomy
Thi Kim Loan Le
Mary Loscocco
Teresa Losurdo
Anthony Mangioni
Maree Ann Martin
Mark Murphy
Henry Petherbridge
Ashleigh Powter
Sheelagh Ruggero
Madeleine Savage
Veronica (Rhona) Seath
Robert (Bob) Smythe
Marjorie Wakely

Eternal rest grant unto them and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.

CROSSWORD

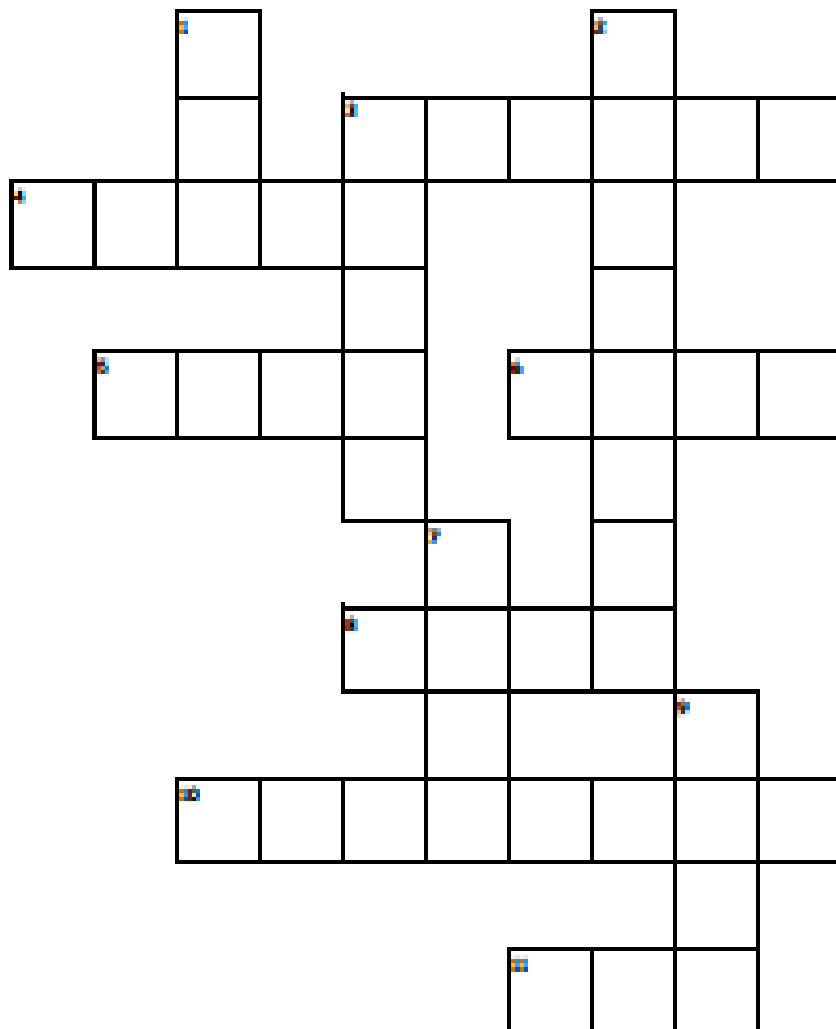
Jer 38:4-6, 8-10

Ps 40:1, 2, 17

Heb 12:1-4

Lk 12:49-53

God you come to my aid and care for me



Across

- 3: to make a choice is to
- 4: the sea is a large mass
of
- 5: you see with these
- 6: the opposite of fast
- 8: burning flames
- 10: this prophet was put
in the mud
- 11: pigs love to roll around in this

Down

- 1: the opposite of in
- 2: finish
- 3: Jesus was nailed to a
- 7: the number after four
- 9: the opposite of easy

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading: Jer 38:4-6. 8-10

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. (R.)
2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. (R.)
3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. (R.)
4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! (R.)

Second Reading: Heb 12:1-4

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 12:49-53

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

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KNOWING JESUS DAILY DEVOTIONAL VIDEOS

You cannot become what you do not know. Join us as we seek to dive deep into the life of Jesus to expand our understanding of who He is and help us live and become more like Him.

This FREE Daily Devotional series is presented by Bruce Downes, known as The Catholic Guy, and starts on **Monday 15 August**.

What people have said about the Daily Devotional Videos:

Love the spiritual knowledge packed messages that you share with all of us. Thank you for spreading this very important message in a way that I understand and look forward to daily!

I can see that God is working miracles in each of these daily devotionals, which is how I start each day. I would feel my day isn't complete without hearing and praying the word of God.

Receive these short, practical, and inspiring Daily Devotional videos into your inbox to help you explore and understand who Jesus really is!

Sign up today: BruceDownes.org/knowningJesus/ or go to our website BruceDownes.org

BANNS OF MARRIAGE



Congratulations to Bernard & Christine who will celebrate their marriage at a Nuptial Mass on Saturday 21st August in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Speaking a hard message

Today's gospel reminds us that the message of Christianity is not always a popular one. Sometimes we are called upon to speak a hard message; a challenging message; a confronting message. The message of the gospel frequently confronts our popular culture and accepted social practice. It often contradicts the expedient decisions of our political leaders. There is a responsibility on us to speak the hard message of the gospel even at the risk of unpopularity and even in the face of threat. The Christian heroes of our time are those who call leaders to measure up to the demands of the gospel.